

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY
REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OF THE

STATE OF FLORIDA,

For the Year ending September 30, 1873.

TALLAHASSEE:

HAMILTON JAY, STATE PRINTER.

1874.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1873.

To his Excellency Governor O. B. HART:

God is on the side of the heaviest battalions! said a distinguished soldier; but the history of the last decade shows that God is on the side of the school house. In the late struggle between Germany and France, ninety-three per cent. of the German Army could read and write, and but thirty-three per cent. of the French forces! The result of that contest has passed into history, and the superiority of cultivated mind over brute force is again manifest in strict accordance with the maxim, that knowledge is the true source of power!

The Constitution of this State declares that it is the highest duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all the children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference, and I am forced to the conclusion that no government is worthy of confidence and support in this age of the world that neglects or ignores the education of the masses.

The State owes to all its citizens a sound, practical education, such as will fit the individual for a full, fair comprehension of every duty that the State may lawfully enjoin.

Does the State call upon the individual to lay down life and property at its command?

Then it is but simple justice that the State furnish the individual with fair opportunity to judge and decide that it is his duty to sacrifice his life and property at its command; aye more! it is the duty of the State to give the individual opportunity to make the sacrifice, if need be, lovingly, as a patriot, as a benefactor of mankind. The limited resources of this State urge a judicious expenditure of its means in all departments of the government, but still it must ever be remembered that in supplying certain cardinal wants of a government, that what might seem to some a lavish expenditure of money, is not only justifiable, but endorsed by every political economist as a sound, reasonable line of policy. The exact measure of the strength of any body is always equal to its weakest point, whether the

Dorothy Dodd 2-22-97 98

body be a steam boiler, an army, or a State government, and sound sense dictates that the weakest point should at all times be most carefully guarded. Place over and against this axiom the fact as is shown by the Ninth U. S. Census that there are 71,000 persons in the State of Florida who can neither read nor write, and you have a fair intimation of one of the weak points of our government, and a point that cannot be too carefully guarded through its most proper means of defense, the Common School.

Our most urgent want at present is first-class primary schools, such as will fit the pupil to enter the high school for a business education, after the elementary instruction is finished. We need a wide diffusion of elementary learning, in its most practical form, and the higher institutions of learning will come in due time as the natural result of a first-class system of graded schools. The grade of learning, or scholarship most earnestly desired by the people of this State, is that which can be turned to immediate practical use in the work shop, farm, store.

Our school system is good, and capable of indefinite expansion; it mainly requires time and opportunity to bring its work to a high state of perfection. I do no violence to the feelings of any when I state that the more intelligent classes in this State have never had the opportunity to become acquainted with the beneficent results of a well sustained first-class system of common schools, and there is a lack of that intense personal interest in the subject of common schools which is the strength and beauty of every highly cultivated community in our common country.

It is also a fact, that I take a great pleasure in placing before your Excellency, viz: that there is a marked increase of favor in the minds of many persons towards the school system that is highly gratifying.

The Boards of Public Instructions in the different counties are working harmoniously, and many good men, whom it would be improper to mention by name, have put heart and soul into this educational work, and in quite a number of instances, money, land and school buildings have been given to the Boards of Public Instruction in the several counties, and a commendable spirit of liberality is manifest. A single county gave in private contributions \$1,283.00, and this made up of small sums coming from a large number of persons.

I had the honor, by appointment, to represent this department in the National Educational Association, at its Thirteenth Annual Meeting, Elmira, N. Y., and read a paper on education in the South, which may be found in the appendix.

Questions of National importance were discussed by many of the leading minds in this nation, and conclusions were reached

that must have a beneficial result in all departments of public instruction.

The claims of a National University were earnestly discussed, and the conclusion reached that it was not desirable, for the following reasons:

1st. That in all human probability it would be turned into a political machine, and run in the successive interests of parties to the detriment of the masses.

2d. That it would divert the public mind from a great public right, and correspondent individual responsibility, viz: the indisputable right of a free people to a system of public education, that shall be as free to all as the sun-light of heaven, and the absolute duty of every American citizen to insist on its maintenance.

3d. The logical and philosophical basis of a proper public school system rests or depends for its real foundation on the right of every child in the State to demand at its hands that education that will qualify it for the best possible discharge of the duties of its future citizenship.

4th. Self protection, in a Republican State, demands the largest possible measure of that general intelligence, with which its citizenship is a permanent element of power, and without which Democratic Institutions are an impossibility for any length of time.

5th. The creative power of a man, in a material point of view, is the only reliable measure of his material value to the State. But his creative power depends upon his intellectual capacity, the scope and reach of which depends upon the education he receives. This may be illustrated by the creative power of a laborer, mechanic, an inventor as Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin; here the creative power of one man changes the commercial and political character of a whole nation.

6th. That the endowed Academies of New England failed to fill the gap that exists in this country between the primary school and college or university proper, and that a well sustained system of grammar schools to fit youth for college or the more earnest pursuits of business life, is what the necessities of the day demand.

How suggestive are these thoughts to the people of Florida in connection with the present condition of Public Schools in this State.

The gist of all discussions in the convention seemed directed to a single point, viz: How shall we best lift up the masses? How shall we best give stability and permanence to republican ideas and institutions? The answer seemed to be this: diffuse as widely as possible in every nook and corner of our common country primary and grammar schools, that we may increase

rapidly the creative power of the individual and thus lift up the masses to a higher conception of the rights and duties of American citizenship.

Iron in a bloom is not so valuable as when wrought into a keg of nails. The nails are not as valuable as a set of tools, or the tools as valuable as a handful of watch springs worth a fortune. What has caused the difference? The educating process. It is the same iron that was in the bloom.

I have received many applications for school teaching, which I refer to the County Supt's. and Boards, whose decision is final as to the fitness of the applicants for a particular school.

County Superintendents will assist greatly by furnishing me with the number of teachers they lack from time to time, and the salaries affixed to the several positions, that I may give proper direction to applicants. I would suggest the propriety of the Legislature making an appropriation for a teacher's Institute at some prominent point in this State, at as early a day as practical, in order that public interest may be increased in relation to our common school interest; that concert of action may be secured by all in the State who are disposed to advance the cause of public education; to place the high and honorable mission of a faithful teacher in its true light before the public mind; to show clearly that common schools are in no sense pauper institutions, but belong to a legitimate co-ordinate department of the government, and to deliberate upon the most practical methods of imparting instruction to the pupils.

The school law has worked well and is commending itself to the confidence of the people. Some amendments have been suggested: 1st. That the County Boards of Instruction be limited to three members to increase efficiency and diminish expense.— 2d. That the census be taken by the Superintendents once in five years. That the County Clerks be required by law to report quarterly all the fines belonging to the school fund to the Comptroller, that the monies in the hands of the Sheriffs may be paid to the State Treasurer as the law directs.

Earnest application has been made by Roman Catholics to this department for a division of the school money, on the ground of religious objections. I have invariably stated to all applicants that the law forbids any such arrangement.

TEXT BOOKS.

Great difficulty exists from want of uniformity in text books. Many are too poor to provide the required books, and others by reason of distance from stores where they are sold and other inconveniences.

The first difficulty might be partly obviated by the Legislature making some provision. The second difficulty can be overcome to some extent by each County Board making an appropriation

of \$200 or \$300 for a constant Book Fund. The actual cost of each book, deducted monthly from the salary of the teacher supplied, and the money again invested in books by the County Superintendents, who would be responsible to the Board of Public Instruction.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The whole number of schools reported by my predecessor was 444, with 16,000 pupils. There has been an increase of 56 schools, making the entire number of common schools 500, with an average attendance of 36 pupils or 18,000 for the entire State, exclusive of private schools. About one-fourth of the children enrolled are in school, while the remaining three-fourths are without school privileges. The rate of increase since '68 has been nearly uniform, hence it will require, unless additional stimulant is added, that the child born to-day must be 27 years of age before the entire children of the State could avail themselves of school privileges.

SCHOOL FUNDS.

The interest on the common school fund apportioned among the several counties for the past year was \$14,873.23. This amount was issued in warrants and sold for about 60 cents, which brought in cash \$8,923.93, a fraction less than last year, as there was no addition of back interest on bonds to be added this year, \$1.43 per child. From the defective character of the returns, it is difficult to state with precision the amount raised by taxation in the several counties.

Including the one mill constitutional tax, it may be estimated at about..... \$80,000 00
Add to this private contributions..... 10,000 00
Peabody Fund..... 8,800 00
Interest on School Fund..... 8,923 93

Total..... \$107,723 93

The aid bestowed by the Peabody Fund is of great value, as it enables the Boards to sustain for about ten months a class of schools that are models of what good schools ought to be. The following is a list of places so benefitted:

Jacksonville.....	\$1,400	Monticello.....	300
St. Augustine.....	1,200	Tampa.....	300
Gainesville.....	1,000	Ocala.....	300
Key West.....	1,000	Quincy.....	200
Tallahassee.....	800	Apalachicola.....	200
Madison.....	600		
Live Oak.....	600	Total.....	\$8,800
Lake City.....	300		

The following table has been prepared showing the bonds constituting the main part of the Common School and Seminary Funds, the interest of which is by the Constitution and Laws of the State annually apportioned among the several counties:

Statement of Bonds belonging to the School Fund in the hands of C. A. Cowgill, Comptroller, Sept. 30, 1873.

BONDS OF—	NUMBER.	AMOUNT.	BOND WHEN ISSUED.	BOND WHEN DUE.	INTEREST WHEN PAYABLE.
9—7 per cent. State of Florida.	78 to 86 inclusive.	\$ 9,000 00	January 1, 1857.	1st Jan'y, 1887.	Semi-Annual.
35—7 " do	{ 211, 213, 215, 221 to } { 252 inclusive, 255. }	35,000 00	do	do	do
6—7 " do	241, 390 to 394 inclusive.	6,000 00	do	do	do
10—8 " do	421 to 429 inclusive, 431.	5,000 00	January 1, 1867.	1st July, 1881.	do
1—7 " do	.....	29,747 63	October 23, 1867.	1st Jan'y, 1883.	do
1—6 " do	.....	1,000 00	June 10, 1856.	1st April, 1866.	do
1—6 " do	.....	5,000 00	March 29, 1856.	9th June, 1866.	do
1—6 " do	.....	505 00	May 10, 1856.	10th May, 1866.	do
1—8 " do	.....	99,500 00	January 1, 1863.	1st Jan'y, 1883.	do
9—7 " Fla. R. R.	{ 254 to 257 inclusive, } { 260, 341 to 334 inclu. }	9,000 00	January 1, 1857.	1st March, 1891.	do
1—8 " Putnam county.	.....	3,000 00	Balance due of about \$3,500.		
1—8 " Marion county.	.....	1,000 00	Balance due of \$21.73 March 26, 1853.		
1—8 " Gadsden county.	.....	8,000 00	Matter in controversy—balance claimed as due by both the State and County.		

Statement of Bonds belonging to the Seminary Fund in the hands of C. A. Cowgill, Comptroller, Sept. 30, 1873.

BONDS OF—	NUMBER.	AMOUNT.	BOND WHEN ISSUED.	BOND WHEN DUE.	INTEREST WHEN PAYABLE.
1—7 per cent. Fla. R. R.	258	\$1,000 00	January 1, 1857.	1st March, 1891.	Semi-Annual.
1—6 " State of Florida.	.....	2,300 00	June 10, 1856.	10th June, 1866.	do
1—8 " do	430	500 00	July 1, 1861.	1st July, 1881.	do
1—8 " do	432	500 00	do	do	do
1—7 " do	76	1,000 00	January 1, 1857.	1st Jan'y, 1887.	do
1—7 " do	77	1,000 00	do	do	do
1—7 " do	216	1,000 00	do	do	do
1—7 " do	217	1,000 00	do	do	do
1—7 " do	218	1,000 00	do	do	do
1—7 " do	219	1,000 00	do	do	do
1—7 " do	220	1,000 00	do	do	do
1—8 " do	.....	60,992 45	January 1, 1863.	1st Jan'y, 1883.	do

One Treasurer's Certificate for \$2,028.33, being amount of principal and interest on Duval county Bond for \$1,000, due March 1, 1871, paid by Treasurer of Duval county.

There are also in the office of the State Treasurer sixty-one 7 per cent. bonds of \$100 each, dated January 1, 1871, belonging to the Common School Fund, and seventy-seven of the same bonds belonging to the Seminary Fund.

SUMMARY.

Common School Fund.

PRINCIPAL—	
Bonds in Comptroller's office, (omitting Gadsden county)....	\$203,752 63
Bonds in Treasury.....	6,100 00
Increase from fines, sales of lands, less \$8,457.08 invested in bonds above mentioned in Treasurer's office.....	21,933 93
Appropriation by Legislature, 1869.....	50,000 00
Additional sales of lands for 1873.....	2,885 11
Total.....	\$284,671 67

Seminary Fund.

PRINCIPAL—	
Bonds in Comptroller's office.....	\$72,272 45
Bonds in Treasurer's office.....	7,700 00
Increase from sales of land less \$9,879 invested in last mentioned bonds.....	2,824 92
Additional sales of lands for 1873.....	423 28
Total.....	\$83,241 20

SCHOOL LANDS.

The School Lands in this State consist of lands granted under a general law bestowing the 16th section in every township for the support of schools in that township, which enure to the benefit of the schools immediately upon the survey of such townships. The precise quantity, therefore, is constantly varying, but if the number of townships now surveyed be estimated at 1,000, which is not far from the truth, and the sections are given an average area of one square mile, we have 640,000 acres as the amount of School Lands. The exact amount is 704,692.21 acres; the balance unsold is near 596,014.87.

SEMINARY LANDS.

The Seminary Lands consist of lands granted by the general government for the special support of two seminaries in Florida, one east and the other west of the Suwannee river. The amount approved to the State for seminary purposes is 85,714.08 acres. Under existing laws, the control and disposition of the School and Seminary Lands is entrusted to the State Board of Education, composed of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General; and the proceeds of sale are devoted exclusively to educational purposes. To save the Department of Education the expense of maps and clerk hire, an arrangement exists by which application for School and Sem-

inary Lands are made through the State Land office, but all deeds of these lands are executed by the members of the State Board of Education, who control their disposition, and the receipt of applications and preparation of deeds constitute the only connection had with this Department.

This view of School and Seminary Lands will close with a

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of Seminary Lands, approved acres.....	85,714.08
Amount of Seminary Lands sold up to Jan'y 1, 1872.....	45,942.34
Leaving unsold.....	39,771.74
School Lands sold during 1873, 2,121.58 acres.....	\$2,885 11
Seminary Lands sold during 1873, 360.31 acres.....	423 28
	\$3,308 39

APPORTIONMENT OF SCHOOL FUND FOR 1874.

COUNTIES.	COUPONS.	FUND.	TOTAL.
1—Alachua.....	\$32 80	\$871 65	\$904 45
2—Baker.....	4 25	113 12	117 37
3—Bradford.....	10 16	270 21	280 37
4—Brevard.....	60	16 07	16 67
5—Calhoun.....	3 59	95 49	99 08
6—Clay.....	3 95	104 98	108 93
7—Columbia.....	24 05	639 21	663 26
8—Dade.....	36	9 68	10 04
9—Duval.....	41 27	1,096 72	1,137 99
10—Escambia.....	35 00	930 14	965 14
11—Franklin.....	3 65	97 23	100 88
12—Gadsden.....	28 28	751 55	779 83
13—Hamilton.....	10 00	265 95	275 95
14—Hernando.....	7 43	197 57	205 00
15—Hillsborough.....	9 89	262 85	272 74
16—Holmes.....	5 01	133 26	138 27
17—Jackson.....	21 87	581 10	602 97
18—Jefferson.....	37 37	993 09	1,030 46
19—Lafayette.....	5 83	154 96	160 79
20—Leon.....	51 23	1,361 32	1,412 32
21—Levy.....	5 12	136 17	141 29
22—Liberty.....	2 77	73 60	76 37
23—Madison.....	38 46	1,022 96	1,060 42
24—Manatee.....	5 83	154 96	160 79
25—Marion.....	37 03	983 99	1,021 02
26—Monroe.....	15 81	420 32	436 13
27—Nassau.....	12 48	342 26	354 74
28—Orange.....	6 37	169 68	176 05
29—Polk.....	5 24	139 46	144 70
30—Putnam.....	10 63	282 60	293 23
31—Santa Rosa.....	13 31	353 88	367 19
32—St. Johns.....	7 18	190 98	198 16
33—Sumter.....	9 20	244 64	253 84
34—Suwannee.....	10 62	282 41	293 03
35—Taylor.....	3 80	101 12	104 91
36—Volusia.....	3 06	81 54	84 60

COUNTIES.	COUPONS.	FUND.	TOTAL.
37--Wakulla.....	5 83	154 96	160 79
38--Walton.....	8 12	215 78	223 90
39--Washington.....	7 43	197 57	205 00
	<u>\$545 28</u>	<u>\$14,494 02</u>	<u>\$15,039 30</u>

CENSUS OF CHILDREN 1871 AND 1873.

<i>Counties.</i>	1871.	1873.	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
Alachua*	4,500	4,500	.....	.....
Baker.....	549	584	35	.....
Bradford.....	1,400	1,395	.....	5
Brevard*.....	83	83	.....	.....
Calhoun.....	330	493	163	.....
Clay*.....	542	542	.....	.....
Columbia.....	3,218	3,300	82	.....
Dade*.....	50	50	.....	.....
Duval.....	3,650	5,662	2,012	.....
Escambia.....	2,489	4,802	2,313	.....
Franklin.....	414	502	88	.....
Gadsden.....	1,845	3,880	2,035	.....
Hamilton*.....	1,373	1,373	.....	.....
Hernando.....	818	1,020	202	.....
Hillsborough.....	1,039	1,357	318	.....
Holmes.....	463	688	226	.....
Jackson*.....	3,000	3,000	.....	.....
Jefferson.....	4,918	5,127	209	.....
Lafayette*.....	800	800	.....	.....
Leon.....	6,007	7,028	1,021	.....
Levy.....	650	703	53	.....
Liberty*.....	380	380	.....	.....
Madison.....	4,976	5,276	300	.....
Manatee.....	615	800	185	.....
Marion.....	2,659	5,080	2,421	.....
Monroe.....	2,314	2,170	.....	144
Nassau*.....	1,767	1,767	.....	.....
Orange.....	480	876	396	.....
Polk*.....	720	720	.....	.....
Putnam.....	1,851	1,459	.....	392
Santa Rosa*.....	1,827	1,827	.....	.....
St. Johns*.....	986	986	.....	.....
Sumter.....	989	1,263	294	.....
Suwannee.....	1,280	1,458	178	.....
Taylor*.....	522	522	.....	.....
Volusia*.....	421	421	.....	.....
Wakulla*.....	800	800	.....	.....
Walton.....	1,148	1,114	.....	34
Washington.....	997	1,020	23	.....
Total.....	<u>62,869</u>	<u>* 74,828</u>	<u>11,959</u>	<u>.....</u>

Counties marked * did not send in the census of children this year.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

To Hon. J. C. GIBBS, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Florida :

The Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College, in accordance with the provisions of law, and the by-laws of the Board of Directors, respectfully report to you their doings as such Directors, by submitting the following abstract from their records prepared and submitted by the Secretary of their Board.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Messrs. President and Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College :

GENTLEMEN : According to the provisions of the law establishing the Florida State Agricultural College, and agreeably to the by-laws of your honorable board, I have the honor to submit the following as an abstract of the record of the doings of the board as the same now appear on record, together with an abstract of the records of the action of the Executive Committee of said Board, in the belief that such full abstract will furnish the most satisfactory account of their action in the transaction of the important business intrusted to their control :

DIRECTOR'S MEETING.

Tallahassee, January 9, 1873.

The Directors assembled in the office of Hon. Charles Beecher, Superintendent of Public Instruction, at 10 A. M. on the 9th day of January, A. D. 1873—a quorum being present.

The Treasurer then presented his report as required by law as follows :

To Hon. CHARLES BEECHER, Superintendent of Public Instruction :

As Treasurer of the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College, I am required by law to report annually to you the financial transactions of the board.

I beg leave to state that no funds of any description having come to the charge or under the control of the Directors of the college, for its benefit, no financial report can well be made.

The expectations of the receipt of the Agricultural Scrip, entertained by the Directors at their last meeting, have been disappointed by the utter failure of all the efforts of the Executive Committee to secure any portion of the scrip belonging to the State.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. ADAMS, Treasurer.

Upon motion, the report was accepted and adopted by a unanimous vote, and was ordered to be recorded.

The special committee appointed at the last meeting of the Directors to prepare and report a general plan and character to be assumed by the Florida State Agricultural College was then called upon for and they presented a report as follows :

To the Hon. the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College :

GENTLEMEN : Your Commissioners who were instructed to report for your consideration a plan and course of study for the Florida State Agricultural College, having given to the matter such consideration as has been practicable, beg leave to report that they are prepared to report the general plan upon which they recommend that the college shall be conducted, but are not prepared to report in detail the course of study that shall be adopted.

Whatever may be the general plan adopted, much care, labor and thought will, of necessity, be required in so framing it as to secure at once the greatest degree of conformity to the general plan adopted, and also of adaptation to the present and actual educational wants of the people of the State, and to those legitimate and proper growing necessities for moral, mental and physical culture, which may be well hoped for and expected in the future from an ambitious and improving people.

And in order to do this successfully and so determine and arrange the course of study as to insure a respectable measure of success, the assistance and constant advice of practical and professional teachers, and desirably of the teachers who will be engaged to give instruction in the course of study that will be established, in the opinion of your Commissioners, will be absolutely necessary.

We therefore recommend that the arrangement of the details of the course of study, and the determination of the time and labor that shall be given to each particular branch or topic, as well as the degree of mastery that shall be exacted, be not finally determined until teachers are employed for the new college, and thus their valuable assistance be secured in framing the course of study in whose success they will have a vital and continuing interest.

In regard to the general plan or character that should now be so permanently fixed upon the college as to determine for all time its general scope and direction, your Commissioners report :

That such general scope and character should now be given to the contemplated institution, whose foundation you, the directors, are about to establish, as will secure beyond any risk of change such a character and administration as will give the

utmost practicable conformity with the legislation of Congress and with that of the State.

First. By specially adapting the college to supply the educational necessities of the practical working classes, and better fit them for those agricultural and mechanical pursuits which, whether from choice or necessity, they will be called to follow.

Second. To accomplish this result by giving special prominence and constant attention to the fundamental branches, and to those topics and branches which are of necessity closely related to and necessary for successful prosecution of an infinite variety of mechanical and agricultural labor to which the industrial classes in this State habitually apply themselves.

Third. To develop physical strength, and at the same time to train growing citizens in habits of due subordination to proper and rightful authority, by placing the new college under the strict control of military discipline.

Fourth. To more perfectly adapt the institution to its special purpose and at the same time to assist effectively in promoting the economy of its management by devoting a portion of the time of teachers and pupils to the practical pursuits of agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanic arts, making it partially a manual-labor school, able by the results of the labor of its students to assist in its own maintenance as largely as possible.

Fifth. To adapt the college, in its agricultural character, to the peculiar semi-tropical character of the vegetable capacity of Florida, and thus avail ourselves to the fullest possible extent of the climatic advantages of the State.

The chairman of your committee will verbally address you on the considerations which have induced to the adoption of the conclusions reached, and your Commissioners will now close their report by presenting their results in the form of several resolutions, whose adoption they recommend, and a certified copy of the resolutions, if adopted, will furnish the best possible evidence of the sincerity and good faith of the State in accepting the grant:

WHEREAS. The State of Florida, by an act of its Legislature entitled An act ———, approved ———, 18—, did fully and formally accept the grant, by act of Congress, approved July 2, 1862, of lands in aid of the establishment of a State Agricultural College, with all its conditions and binding obligations; and whereas, by an act of the Legislature approved February 17, 1872, the State of Florida did proceed to secure the organization of the Florida Agricultural College, and to provide for its support in full accordance with the act of Congress granting the lands; and whereas, the organization of the Florida Agricultural College was completed by the election and acceptance of the necessary directors and officers on the 20th day of March, 1872; now,

therefore, in order to fix for the College such permanent general features as shall insure its present and continuing accordance with the United States and State legislation to which it owes its origin, it is by the directors of the Florida Agricultural College

Resolved, First—That the Florida Agricultural College shall, in general as well as in all necessary particulars, specially aim to adapt its ministrations to the educational necessities of the practical working classes, by the selection of such topics for thought and branches of study for instruction therein as will most directly and most certainly fit them for industrial pursuits, whether agricultural or mechanical, which the majority of such classes, whether from choice or necessity, will be apt to follow.

Second—It shall, in order to obtain this result, give special prominence and constant attention to arithmetic, algebra, surveying, geography, natural history, English language, natural philosophy, chemistry, geology, botany, and to other similar and kindred branches which most particularly relate to and are most directly necessary in the successful prosecution of the mechanical and agricultural labors to which the industrial classes in this State habitually apply themselves, without excluding other classical and scientific branches, that in the future may become desirable.

Third—It shall be a leading aim of the College at all times to aid in the development of physical strength and symmetry, and at the same time do its part in endeavoring to train its students in habits of due subordination to proper and rightful authority, so indispensable to republican citizenship, by placing the new college under regular and steady military discipline, while instruction in military art and tactics shall be imparted to all.

Fourth—It shall be the constant purpose of directors and instructors to adapt the college to its special purposes, and likewise to provide thorough economy in its management by regularly devoting a portion of the time of teachers and scholars to the regular and practical pursuit of agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanic arts, making it in fact, to some extent, a manual-labor school, and enable it thus, from the results of its own labor, to contribute as largely as possible to its own support and maintenance.

Fifth—It shall also be a matter of special effort to adapt the college, in its agricultural and horticultural character, to the peculiar and unique semi-tropical character of the vegetable capacity of Florida, and thus inculcate among the people a strong and intelligent determination to avail themselves, as fully as possible, of the valuable climatic advantages of the State.

With the assistance and advice of the Commissioner of Agri-

culture, and with his co-operation, the directors shall establish an extensive nursery for the introduction and cultivation of those rare and precious tropical and semi-tropical plants and fruits that can in all the United States be only raised by open-air culture in Florida; and thus endeavor to furnish a valuable adjunct to the natural department of agriculture.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. S. ADAMS, *Committee.*

Upon motion, the report was, with the resolutions therein, accepted and adopted by unanimous vote.

Hon. J. T. Walls then suggested that the Florida State Agricultural College be located in Alachua county, on the line of the Florida Railroad, and made the following proposition in writing:

To the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College:

GENTLEMEN: I am authorized by Hon. D. L. Yulee, and the citizens of Alachua county, to endeavor to secure the location of the Florida State Agricultural College on the line of the Florida Railroad within the limits of Alachua county, and to guarantee that if such location be made, a donation to the College shall be made of fifty thousand dollars in cash, and twenty thousand acres of land, to be selected by a committee to be appointed by the Directors of the College, and that free transportation on the Florida Railroad shall be given for all the materials necessary to be used in the construction of the requisite buildings.

The proposition of Mr. Walls was then accepted by unanimous vote.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the proposition made to the Directors on the part of Mr. Yulee and the citizens of Alachua county, and the acceptance of the same by the Directors, the Florida State Agricultural College is hereby located in Alachua county, on the line of the Florida Railroad, in such precise locality as may be selected by the Executive Committee of the Directors, who are hereby specially empowered and requested to make such location and selection as soon as practicable.

Upon motion, Hon. W. D. Bloxham was chosen as a member of the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the removal from the State of Hon. Peter Knowles.

The following resolution was then offered:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the Board be, and they hereby are authorized and fully empowered and are requested to draw and receive from the Secretary of the Interior, the Agricultural College Scrip belonging to this College, and to dispose of the same at not less than eighty-five cents per acre, the

proceeds to be deposited with Jay Cooke & Co., or some other bankers of equal reputation, subject to the draft of the Executive Committee, or to locate said scrip on Western lands, at the discretion of the committee.

The resolution after full discussion was adopted by unanimous vote.

RECORDS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

TALLAHASSEE, JANUARY 15, 1873.

The Executive Committee of the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College assembled in the office of Hon. John Varnum in Tallahassee on the 15th day of January, 1873, when were present Messrs. Walls, Meacham, Varnum and Adams, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Hon. Robert Meacham was selected to act as chairman.

Upon motion it was by unanimous vote

Resolved, That the Executive Committee as a whole will act as special committee to select and locate the lands that are to be given to the State Agricultural College under the proposition of Mr. Yulee and the citizens of Alachua county, as made to and accepted by the Directors at their meeting of January 9, 1873.

The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That J. S. Adams, Secretary and Treasurer, is hereby directed to take all necessary measures immediately to draw and receive from the Secretary of the Interior the Agricultural College Scrip belonging to the College, and to dispose of the same in accordance with the resolution of the Directors, adopted at their meeting of January 9, 1873.

And said Secretary and Treasurer is hereby fully empowered, by and for the Executive Committee to make and execute all contracts and assignments necessary in drawing and disposing of said scrip, the proceeds of the sale thereof to be deposited with Jay Cooke & Co., or some other bankers of equal reputation, subject to the draft of the Executive Committee, as directed in said resolution of the Directors of January 9, 1873.

The resolution after full discussion was adopted by unanimous vote.

March 11, 1873.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of Florida State Agricultural College, held at Tallahassee on the 11th day of March A. D. 1873, a quorum being present, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote:

WHEREAS, J. S. Adams was by the Directors and the Executive Committee of the Florida State Agricultural College duly authorized to assign and legally transfer the Agricultural College scrip belonging to said College; and whereas, said Adams, unable to leave home to accomplish said trust, did, heretofore by power of

attorney, attempt to give authority to W. D. Bloxham to assign and transfer said scrip, in lieu of himself, which authority, by decision of the Department, cannot thus be given; therefore, it is by the Executive Committee,

Resolved, That William D. Bloxham as Vice President, and one of the Executive Committee of the Florida State Agricultural College, be and he is hereby fully authorized to proceed to Washington, and on the consummation of the sale of the Agricultural scrip belonging to said College, at not less than ninety cents per acre, as provided in previous resolutions of the Directors and Executive Committee of said College, to assign and legally transfer said scrip to any purchaser complying with the conditions heretofore prescribed by the Directors of said College, and set forth in the power of attorney heretofore issued by said Adams to said Bloxham.

Resolved, That said Bloxham is requested to procure a proper seal for the use of the Secretary and one for the Treasurer of said College, in lieu of the seal of the Commissioner of Lands and Immigration hitherto adopted and used as the seal of the College.

DIRECTOR'S MEETING.

TALLAHASSEE, MAY 22, 1873.

Upon the call of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College assembled in the office of the Superintendent on the 22d day of May, 1873, a quorum being present.

Hon. W. D. Bloxham, who had been authorized by the Executive Committee to transfer and assign the Agricultural College scrip belonging to the College, then made full report of his doings in the negotiation, referring to a detailed report which he had heretofore caused to be printed in the "Floridian," and also making verbal report of his subsequent action.

The report was received, accepted and approved, and the printed report ordered to be recorded.

Upon motion, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That W. D. Bloxham, Vice President of the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College, is hereby tendered the thanks of the Directors for the faithful and efficient manner in which he has discharged his trust in relation to the sale of the Agricultural scrip belonging to the College.

Resolved, That the Directors hereby ratify and confirm the sale of the Agricultural scrip belonging to the College, heretofore effected by the Hon. W. D. Bloxham with F. G. Lewis, and the Board hereby guarantee the faithful carrying out and fulfillment of said contract in full accordance with the terms thereof.

Resolved, That the Secretary is requested to prepare and forward to Mr. Lewis a certified copy of these resolutions.

After a discussion of the matter of consummating the location of the College, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Executive Committee, with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, after due notification to the citizens of Alachua county, will, on the 5th day of June, proceed to the city of Gainesville and consummate the location of the College in said county upon receipt of the titles to the twenty thousand acres of land and the \$50,000 guaranteed in the written proposition made to and accepted by this Board, or determine the failure of the conditional location heretofore made, on account of the non-fulfilment of the guarantees given; and that the Secretary immediately notify the chairman of the County Commissioners of Alachua county and Hon. J. T. Walls of the passage of the above resolution.

Resolved, That in case of the failure of the location of said College in Gainesville, the Secretary is requested by publication to invite propositions from different parts of the State for such location.

J. S. Adams then tendered his resignation of the office of Treasurer, which was accepted.

Upon nomination of Mr. Meacham, Hon. John Varnum was elected Treasurer by unanimous vote.

Upon motion, it was ordered that the papers necessary to finish the transfer of the scrip and the receipt and disposition of the proceeds thereof, be properly endorsed and turned over to the Treasurer for safe keeping and future disposition under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The following communication was received from C. A. Cowgill, the Comptroller, and was ordered to be recorded and placed on file:

TALLAHASSEE, MAY 17, 1873.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to request that you will invest the money belonging to the Agricultural College in the new bonds of the State of Florida.

I would not make this application did I not feel assured, both as a citizen and as Comptroller, knowing the resources of the State, that the investment will be perfectly secure, and more advantageous to the College than any likely to be made.

These bonds are sold at 80 cents, and bear interest payable semi-annually at six per cent. in gold; thus for \$800 you get a bond for \$1000, and when U. S. currency and gold are equal in value the interest is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on your investment, and with gold at 14 per cent. premium (at or about which rate it will probably continue for some time,) the investment yields a trifle over $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

I inclose copy of a letter I sent to Bayne & Co., of New York, with whom I am successfully negotiating in reference to the return of the old hypothecated bonds of 1868 and 1869, and also refer you to a statement published in the last Sentinel concerning the receipts and expenditures of the State since 1st of January, as evidences of our return to a healthful condition financially.

If those interested in the future of our State, (and who is not?) will cordially unite in assisting to restore our finances, we will soon be on a cash basis; and I regard the expression of your confidence in the progressive prosperity of our State, as will be evidenced by this investment, as a very important, and perhaps essential auxiliary.

I am leaving for New York on business, and hope to hear from you formally, so that I can show to bankers the confidence your Board reposes in the recuperative energy of our State.

Very respectfully,

C. A. COWGILL, *Comptroller.*

Trustees of the Florida Agricultural College.

(COPY.)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, STATE OF FLORIDA, }
OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER, }
Tallahassee, Florida, April 23, 1873. }

MESSRS. L. P. BAYNE & Co.:

I send you a statement of the debt of the State of Florida on April 1, 1873. During the first quarter of the year, the outstanding warrants have been increased by only \$3,249.75, although all the expenses of the Legislature have been paid, and nine thousand dollars of the Lunatic Asylum debt, and also over \$16,000 of deficiency appropriations, the amount of warrants issued to accomplish this being \$145,491.93.

The receipts into the Treasury during this quarter have been \$157,945.25—\$15,911.16 of which has been expended in paying the interest on the bonds of 1871.

The taxes that will be collected during the remainder of the year will pay all the interest due on the bonds of 1871, provide for the payment of the interest on the new bonds of 1873, and very nearly redeem all the outstanding warrants, so that on the first day of next January (if the proposed loan be negotiated,) we shall be upon a cash basis with at least \$100,000 in the Treasury. It was hoped that \$150,000 would remain in the Treasury at that date, but investigations have proven that more money had been borrowed upon the hypothecated bonds by the late Governor than had been reported by him.

When we start upon a cash basis, with all determined to act economically, we can reduce our State expenses to \$200,000 per annum, and in addition to that sum, will have to raise \$128,000 to pay interest on the bonded debt of \$1,350,000 (counting six per cent. in gold as seven per cent. in currency,) to form a sinking fund and pay \$20,000 interest on school and seminary debt, making \$328,000 necessary to be raised annually to meet all demands.

To accomplish this, we have an actual assessed valuation of real estate and personal property of \$30,000,000, and under the present law the rate is 70 cents for State purposes, making \$210,000, 40 cents for interest on bonds of 1873, and as much as may be necessary to pay interest, &c., on bonds of 1871. Besides this we get about \$30,000 from licenses and commissions.

Thus you see an ample security for the future payment of interest, &c., on new bonds, but in addition to this we may reasonably take in account the *bona fide* increased value of real estate, and the greater valuation that will undoubtedly be placed upon the lands, this having been heretofore undervalued.

From all these facts I have no doubt that Florida securities will soon reach as high as any State in the Union.

Very Respectfully,

C. A. COWGILL,
Comptroller.

L. P. BAYNE & Co.,
54 Broad st., New York.

After a prolonged discussion in reference to the communication and inclosure, it was unanimously

Resolved, That Treasurer Varnum be authorized and directed to invest \$80,000 of the proceeds of the sale of the Agricultural College Scrip, belonging to the Florida Agricultural College, and sold to F. G. Lewis under the direction of the Trustees, in the bonds of the State of Florida, as issued under Legislative authority in 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873, in his discretion, upon conference with and the assent of the Executive Committee.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was then elected President of the Board of Directors.

REPORT OF VICE-PRESIDENT BLOXHAM.

Tallahassee, Florida, April 26, 1873.

HON. J. C. GIBBS, President Board of Trustees Florida Agricultural College:

SIR—As the meeting of the Board of Trustees has been

postponed until the 22d of May, owing to the necessary absence of the Secretary and Treasurer, I deem it my duty, as it certainly is my pleasure, to make to you my report in regard to the sale of the Florida Agricultural College Scrip. I shall enter more into detail and present some records from the action of the Board, which would not be done but for the ridiculous criticisms that have been made upon the transaction.

Having had previous correspondence with parties in relation to the sale of said scrip, during the time that I acted as President of the Board, I visited Washington in the latter portion of last November with the following authority:

To HON. W. D. BLOXHAM, *Vice-President of Directors of Florida State Agricultural College:*

SIR—You are, by direction of the Executive Committee of Florida State Agricultural College, hereby authorized to receive the Agricultural College Scrip belonging to the State of Florida, and to dispose of the same, or of all right thereto, at the rate of not less than eighty-five cents on the dollar, depositing the proceeds with Jay Cooke & Co., in the City of Washington, subject to the order of the Board indicated by resolution and signed by the President and Treasurer.

J. S. ADAMS, *Chairman.*

In accordance with this authority, I entered into a contract with Mr. G. F. Lewis, of Cleveland, Ohio, for the sale of said scrip at 90 cents per acre. I had frequently before, as President of the Board, (having served as President for two years) given authority to other parties to apply for and receive the scrip. For four years we had been defeated, owing to claims being set up against the State by the general government. Being both unable and unwilling to remain in Washington for months, with the prospect of being again unsuccessful, as previous efforts gave no encouragement, I gave Mr. Lewis authority to draw the scrip from the department. I did in this just what every other State had done, whose scrip had not been delivered before the sale thereof. This has been seized hold of to create the impression that we were in danger of losing the benefits of the sale. Never was an assertion more ignorantly made, as any one knows who has the slightest acquaintance with the practice and law in such cases. The law renders the scrip so much blank paper until it receives the seal and signature of some one authorized by the State to do so. Suppose it had been lost? The department, upon evidence of the same, could have renewed it. Suppose, violent as the supposition is, that my name had been forged to the same, and the seal of the college, *which no one had*, had have been forged also. Still the State could not have suffered. The Interior Department has full and absolute

control over the same until patents for the land have been issued—hence it could have been checked at any and every stage. The contract itself expressly says, “upon said Lewis notifying said Bloxham that said scrip has been issued, said college will cause the same to be legally assigned and transferred in the usual manner.” So much for this ignorant criticism.

THE ASSIGNMENT.

Having had so many failures in the past, it was suggested to Mr. Adams, he being Secretary of the Board and chairman of the committee, at a meeting on the 15th of January, that as there was a probability of his going on to Washington, he had better take full authority from the Board also, as he might be able to furnish other papers if they were necessary, or to make other arrangements if Mr. Lewis should fail. In a few days after, to-wit, on the 19th of January, I was notified that the scrip had been received by Mr. Lewis. The Governor of the State was also notified of the transaction. It has been asked why this action of the Board on the 15th of January, when the scrip had been delivered to Mr. Lewis on the 10th of the same month? Simply because we had not been notified. Mr. Lewis carried the scrip from Washington to Cleveland, and upon his arrival there at once notified me. Five days, as every one knows, was not sufficient time to accomplish this.

When it was ascertained that Mr. Lewis had received the scrip under my contract, application was made at the General Land Office for me to *assign* the same. It was decided that my authority did not give me the right to *assign*. Any one will perceive by reading it that the authority to *assign* is not expressly conveyed. Upon examining Mr. Adams’ authority, I saw that he had the right to “make all contracts and *assignments*”—hence I applied to him, there being no meeting of the Board, either to go on himself or to convey to me his authority. This he did on the first day of February. I forwarded on this power of attorney. The department again decided that this was insufficient. The power delegated to Mr. Adams could not be by him delegated to me.

At this time and in order to meet the emergency, a quorum of the Executive Committee met and took the following action:

Tallahassee, March 11, 1873.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Florida State Agricultural College, held at Tallahassee on the 11th of March, 1873, present Wm. D. Bloxham, John Varnum, and J. S. Adams, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote:

WHEREAS, J. S. Adams was, by the Directors and the Execu-

tive Committee of the Florida State Agricultural College, duly authorized to assign and legally transfer the Agricultural Scrip belonging to said College; and

WHEREAS, Said Adams, unable to leave home to accomplish said trust, did heretofore, by power of attorney, attempt to give authority to W. D. Bloxham to assign and transfer said scrip in lieu of himself, which authority, by decision of the department, cannot thus be given; therefore, it is by the Executive Committee

Resolved, That William D. Bloxham, as Vice-President and one of the Executive Committee of the Florida State Agricultural College, be and he is hereby fully authorized to proceed to Washington, and on the consummation of the sale of the Agricultural Scrip belonging to said College, at not less than ninety (90) cents per acre, as provided in previous resolutions of the Directors and Executive Committee of said College, to assign and legally transfer said scrip to any purchaser complying with the conditions heretofore prescribed by the Directors of said College and set forth in the power of attorney heretofore issued to said Bloxham by said Adams.

Resolved, That said Bloxham is requested to procure a proper seal for the use of the Secretary and one for the Treasurer of said College, in lieu of the seal of the Commissioner of Lands and Immigration hitherto adopted and used as the seal of the College. A true record. Attest:

J. S. ADAMS, *Secretary*.

It is somewhat strange that this document does not appear in the published list. Was it because it threw too much light upon the transaction and showed why it was that "these supplementary papers were procured by Mr. Bloxham and sent on to Washington at the request of the purchaser, after the scrip had been delivered?" This document was sent on to the department at Washington. But possibly "public curiosity would have been gratified" had this link in the chain of circumstances been published, and nothing left to create a temporary sensation upon. This authority proving sufficient, one piece of the scrip was forwarded to me to fill up the blank and sign the same in the presence of two witnesses. This I did, and signed the same in the presence of Hon. S. B. McLin, Secretary of State, and Hon. C. A. Cowgill, Comptroller. This was forwarded on, and on the 6th of April I received a telegram that the assignment had been approved. On the 8th I left for Cleveland.

THE PAYMENT.

During the unavoidable delay occasioned by the transmission of and decision upon the authorities forwarded, the correspondence between Mr. Lewis and myself resulted in his expressing

a willingness and desire to settle the whole amount at once. This would have been done but for the publication of the anonymous and slanderously false telegram, which was extensively copied, tending to throw suspicion upon the scrip. Mr. Lewis himself says in a letter to you, Mr. President, which I found published upon my return, "I should have paid the full amount of the contract at once, except for the publication of articles in the newspapers having a tendency to injure the scrip."

Few persons fully appreciate the real status of this Agricultural Scrip. Its mere assignment by an agent, while it renders it negotiable, does not by any means render it entirely secure. Even after its assignment and at any time before patents are issued for the land, the Interior Department can stop it and invalidate the entire transaction. The case of Texas serves to illustrate the Secretary's power in such cases. Mr. Lewis naturally felt uneasy as to the security of his proposed investment and postponed the payment until he could get some of the land located and patents issued for the same. This he expects to be able to do in ninety days. If so, there will be no trouble in having the whole amount at that time. But we cannot, under any possible circumstances, be out of the money for the second payment longer than October. Comments have been made upon what security I was to receive for this second payment. A sufficient answer to all that is that the portion of the scrip unpaid for is deposited in the name of the Trustees in the Merchants' National Bank of Cleveland, a government depository, and to be delivered to Mr. Lewis only upon his paying the purchase money for the same. In other words, we hold possession of the property—the very best security that we could possibly have. One-half of the money, the first payment, amounting to \$40,500, was paid down and deposited to the order of the Trustees.

I think Mr. Lewis will have no difficulty in having land for some of the scrip patented at once. I visited Washington on my return to ascertain if there would be any obstacles in the way. I visited the various heads of Department with several gentlemen from Florida. I made inquiries as to the truthfulness of the anonymous telegram referred to, and was told by Mr. Delano and Mr. Drummond that they knew nothing of it and had never even seen it. In other words, it was a falsehood from whole cloth. Mr. Drummond, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, expressed satisfaction at the price we had received and remarked upon Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland and various other States who had received an average of about 60 cents.

THE PRICE.

I examined during my absence the contracts of some thirty

States, and know of no State that has received a larger price and whose payments will be received in so short a time. We must not confound the *location* of the land for the scrip with the *sale* of the scrip. Mr. Cornell, of New York, founder of the well known Cornell University, located a portion of the scrip coming to that State, and sold the remaining portion to the same purchaser that we sold to and at the same price. The question of locating the scrip belonging to this State was frequently before our board. Our Secretary corresponded with Mr. Cornell upon the subject, that we might profit by his experience. The price charged for locating was one-fourth of the land located. If it was well located we might soon realize a handsome income from the remaining three-fourths, but if it was not we might wait for a life time and never get the money. But with this I have nothing to do. The board, as it had a right to do, always decided to sell the scrip, and I feel that the Executive Committee, in discharging that duty, have done every thing that could be done. Then why all this meaningless comment about the matter? Have we not accomplished in four months what the Board have been trying four years to do? Have we not secured as good a price and as short payment as any other State in the entire Union? Have we not accomplished it at as little expense as any other State? Have we not secured four thousand five hundred dollars more for the fund than we were authorized to sell it at? I am as liable, Mr. President, to make mistakes as any one—but viewing the entire ground, with all the criticisms that have been made, if called upon again to perform the same duty, I should do exactly what I have done. It is proper that I should state that the scrip is issued in quarter sections, or 160 acre pieces. Florida was entitled to 562½ pieces. The department did not issue the *half piece*, so we received 562 pieces. The certificates of deposit, both for the \$40,500 and for the portion of scrip unpaid for, have been deposited with B. C. Lewis & Sons, Bankers in this city. They will be turned over to the Board upon its meeting on the 22d of May. It will thus be seen that this malicious falsehood gotten up for political effect at Washington falls still-born when brought into contact with the touchstone of truth.

Very Respectfully,

W. D. BLOXHAM.

RECORDS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

May 22, 1873.—The Executive Committee met, a quorum being present, when upon unanimous vote, it was

Resolved, That John Varnum, Treasurer of the Florida Agricultural College, is by the Executive Committee of said College

hereby authorized to immediately invest \$80,000 of the proceeds of the sale of the Agricultural College Scrip belonging to this College, in the bonds of the State of Florida, bearing six per cent. interest, payable semi-annually in gold, authorized by the Legislature of said State at the sessions thereof of 1872-73.

July 1, 1873.—The Executive Committee met in the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. A quorum being present, Hon J. C. Gibbs, upon invitation, presiding.

Treasurer Varnum made a verbal report of the progress made in investing the proceeds of the sale of the Scrip according to the order of the Trustees and presented a contract made with L. P. Bayne & Co., for the consummation of the negotiation for such investment.

The contract was approved by the committee and Treasurer Varnum was directed to close up the sale of the bonds according to the tenor of said contract, and make full report to the Board as soon as practicable.

HON. J. C. GIBBS, *President of the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College:*

SIR:—I have the honor through you as President to submit to the Directors of the Florida Agricultural College, my official report as Treasurer of the College, in the matter of the disposition of the Agricultural College Scrip belonging to the College and the investment of the proceeds which was specially intrusted to me by the action of the Board.

It will be recollected that at a meeting of the Board held in May, 1873, Hon. W. D. Bloxham, who had been specially authorized to receive and dispose of the Agricultural College Scrip belonging to the College, and to make all contracts necessary therefor, made a report to the Board of his doings in the capacity of special agent, and submitted a formal contract in writing which he had executed with F. G. Lewis for the sale of the Scrip and the payment of the proceeds, which contract was approved by the Board, with a guarantee for its being faithfully carried out and fully executed.

At the same meeting, I was authorized and directed, as the Treasurer of the College, to invest the \$80,000 to be received under the contract with Mr. Lewis in any of the bonds of Florida issued since 1868, in my own discretion and upon conference with the Executive Committee.

Upon a conference with the Executive Committee immediately held upon the representation of the Comptroller as to the advisability of the investment and his request therefor, I was authorized and instructed to make an immediate investment of the proceeds of the sale of the scrip in the Florida Bonds of the issue of 1872 and 1873.

Pursuant to these instructions, I immediately proceeded to New York, drew my drafts as Treasurer and Special Agent of the Board for the one-half of the proceeds of the sale of the Scrip as per contract with Mr. Lewis.

I endeavored to effect the collection of these drafts at first through Jay, Cooke & Co., with whom the Board had at first contemplated the deposit of all the proceeds of the sale, exhibiting to them the contract with Mr. Lewis as approved by the Board, and all my instructions and papers.

As it was a collection to be made upon a contract, they declined to undertake it upon any terms, and upon their declination, which after events induced me to rejoice at, I applied to two other National Banks in New York, but they both refused to attempt the collection at less than two and one half per cent. commission.

Recalling the communication of the Comptroller to L. P. Bayne & Co. upon the financial prospects of the State, a copy of which the Comptroller had communicated to the Board, I visited that house, and found that Comptroller Cowgill had already arranged with Bayne & Co. for taking up the old bonds hypothecated with them, and was then personally engaged in cancelling them in Messrs. Bayne & Co's. office.

I found also, that Messrs. Bayne & Co., by contract with the Comptroller, had been authorized to make exclusive sale of the new bonds until October 1st, although I did not ascertain upon what terms. On my application, Bayne & Co. undertook the collection of the proceeds of the sale of the first half of the scrip under the contract with Mr. Lewis, and without any commission, unless some unexpected difficulty or obstacle should intervene. They accordingly forwarded my drafts, of which in a few days a portion came back protested.

Bayne & Co. having in their possession all of the new bonds which had been issued or ready for sale under their contract with the Comptroller of the State, then offered, if, in making an immediate investment, as I was instructed to do, I would purchase immediately of their house, that they would take my drafts for the first half of the proceeds of the sale of the scrip under Mr. Lewis' contract at their own risk, and deliver therefor fifty thousand dollars of the new bonds, without charge for risk or commission.

Believing this to be the best arrangement then practicable, I accepted their offer, received \$50,000 in the new bonds for the proceeds of one-half of the scrip, made a conditional contract with Bayne & Co. for the completion of the investment, and returned home to report progress to the Board, authorizing Bayne & Co. as my agents to collect the balance of the proceeds of the scrip through the Loaner's Bank of New York city.

I made my report to the Executive Committee at a meeting held on the 1st of July, 1873, of all my doings and proceedings, and exhibited the contract made by me with Bayne & Co. All my proceedings received the approval of the committee, and I was directed to complete the negotiations with Bayne & Co. as soon as practicable.

At that time it was supposed that the entire negotiation would be completed by the last of July, but unexpected difficulties arose, and Mr. Lewis was induced to insist upon the full time allowed in his contract, as he had the right to do, and this time did not expire till October 14, 1873.

And thus the full completion of the negotiation was from time to time delayed, owing to the continually increasing stringency of all monetary affairs, and the consequent inclination of Mr. Lewis to defer the payment of the balance to the farthest limit of his contract, until the breaking out of the panic in the latter part of September.

Alarmed at the financial condition, I again went North early in October, thoroughly convinced, after consultation with the members of the Board, and by the force of my own convictions, that under the dangerous indications of the time, the earliest possible conclusion of the negotiation that would secure the safe investment of the funds was imperatively required.

On my arrival at New York, I found a condition of financial confusion and fright amounting to panic, which had already involved the destruction of several of the most prosperous and most widely trusted of the banking institutions, carrying down such establishments as the First National Bank of Washington, Jay, Cooke & Co., Clews & Co., Fisk & Hatch, and Sprague & Co., and seriously threatening the National Freedmen's Savings Bank itself.

I found Mr. Lewis, although he had been notified by parties in Florida not to settle with the Trustees, but to pay the money into Court and make litigation necessary at great expense and delay, was willing to carry out his contract, but that from the locking up of his funds in the banks he could only accomplish it at the loss of the current premium for currency, which would amount to some \$2,000. Anxious to complete the negotiation, I authorized Bayne & Co. to settle with Mr. Lewis, even if it involved the loss of not to exceed \$2,000 to bring it about; but my drafts for the settlement upon that basis came back protested.

At this juncture, Bayne & Co. proposed to me to take the negotiation off my shoulders, and assuming all risk, and the losses by delays, to deliver to me for the College for the remaining \$40,000 of the proceeds of the scrip \$50,000 in the new bonds,

with the January coupons detached, making to me a written proposition to that effect, which is herewith submitted.

Alarmed at the financial aspect, and under all the circumstances reasonably so as I think, I assented to and accepted Bayne & Co's. proposition and concluded the negotiation upon that basis.

I now tender to the disposition of the Board the \$100,000 in the new bonds of the State of Florida, which I have received for the proceeds of the sale of the Agricultural College Scrip, holding the same subject to their order.

In closing my report, I desire to express, as your agent, my obligations to Mr. Lewis for his readiness to promote the attainment of my object, and to Messrs. Bayne & Co. for the assistance they gave me, often much needed, and always freely given, and exceedingly rejoiced to be relieved of a troublesome and weighty responsibility, respectfully ask your approval of my official acts under your special instructions. I communicate herewith a copy of the contract of the Comptroller and Governor with Bayne & Co., the circular of Bayne & Co. as State Agents for sale of the bonds, the protest of my drafts of October 14, and the written proposition of Bayne & Co. as portions of my report.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

JOHN VAENUM,

Treasurer Florida State Agricultural College.

CONTRACT BETWEEN COMPTROLLER AND BAYNE & CO.

Memorandum of an agreement made at Jacksonville, in the State of Florida, on the 10th day of April, A. D. 1873, by and between O. B. Hart, Governor of said State, and C. A. Cowgill, Comptroller of said State, parties of the first part, and L. P. Bayne & Co., of the city of New York, party of the second part.

WHEREAS, at the extra session of the Legislature of said State, in February, 1873, a law was passed authorizing the issue of bonds of said State to the amount of one million dollars, one half of which bonds are to be sold by said parties of the first part, it is hereby agreed:

1. That on or before the 15th of May, 1873, the party of the second part will purchase and receive from said parties of the first part two hundred (200) of said bonds, each for one thousand dollars, at the price of eighty cents on the dollar, in all amounting to one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, interest on said bonds to be adjusted to run from April 1st, to which date the account hereafter mentioned has also been adjusted, and said party of the second part will pay for said two hundred bonds by

delivering to said parties of the first part two hundred and ninety-eight Florida six per cent. currency bonds, with the matured coupons, amounting in all to about \$350,000, said last named bonds having been held by said party of the second part as collateral security from M. S. Littlefield, whose account is to be credited with said \$160,000. Said exchange to be made in the city of New York.

2. Said parties of the second part also agree to receive and purchase from said parties of the first part fifty other of said issue of bonds, each for one thousand dollars, bearing date January 1, 1873, at the rate of eighty per cent. of their face value and accumulated interest in currency, to be delivered and received at Tallahassee on the 15th day of June, 1873, cash paid on delivery.

3. Said parties of the second part also agree that they will use their best efforts to negotiate and sell, on or before the 1st day of October, 1873, all the remainder of said issue of bonds dated January 1st, 1873, to be sold, viz: two hundred and fifty of said bonds; said bonds to be sold at the rate of eighty cents on the dollar of their face value, and accumulated interest. Said bonds to be delivered at Tallahassee in such amount and at such dates as said parties of the second part shall require on or before said first day of October, A. D. 1873, and to be paid for as delivered without deduction for commissions.

4. Said parties of the first part also agree that as to the five hundred additional bonds to bear date January 1st, 1873, and authorized to be issued and to be exchanged by said parties of the first part, they will not exchange any of them before said first day of October, 1873, without the assent of said parties of the second part.

5. Said parties of the second part also agree to superintend the printing of said entire issue of bonds and to have said printing done by the "National Bank Note Printing Co." of New York, before the first day of May next, if practicable, at the lowest cash price of said Company, which said parties of the second part guarantee shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty dollars, said bonds to conform to the form proposed by said Comptroller.

In witness whereof said parties have hereto set their hands the day and date first mentioned.

(Signed)

O. B. HART, *Governor*,
C. A. COWGILL, *Comptroller*,
L. P. BAYNE & Co.

Attest—(Signed) C. S. HART.

\$1,000,000 FLORIDA STATE CONSOLIDATED LOAN.

L. P. Bayne & Co., Bankers, No. 54 Broad street, New York, offer for sale at present only \$500,000 Florida Consolidated six per cent. Gold Bonds.

These bonds are issued for the purpose of funding the present indebtedness of the State.

The principal of these bonds matures January 1, 1903. The interest is payable in gold coin in New York, semi-annually, January and July.

The proceeds of the bonds now offered to the public are applicable alone to the retiring of the bonds of 1868 and 1869, heretofore hypothecated, and to other legitimate debts maturing after July 1.

Section 5 of the act which orders the issue of these bonds provides for an ample tax for the prompt payment of the interest, and the creation of a sinking fund to meet the principal. It also declares that the coupons "shall be received for taxes."

Section 12 of the same act stipulates that "no other bonds shall be issued while said bonds remain outstanding;" and this is declared to be an express contract on the part of the State with the holders of these bonds.

Subjoined is the last and recent official financial report of C. A. Cowgill, Comptroller of the State, submitted to the public:

Bonds issued in 1871, \$100 each (currency).....	\$350,000
Gold bonds issued in 1873, \$1,000 each, interest payable in Tallahassee or New York, January and July.....	265,000
Other outstanding bonds, with interest due thereon to January 1, 1873.....	493,000
Total.....	\$1,108,000

The School and Seminary Funds are creditors of the State for money borrowed during the war for \$262,045. Upon this amount the interest has already been paid to July 1, 1873.

The Treasurer's certificates and the Comptroller's warrants outstanding on the 15th of May were \$220,500, all of which being receivable for taxes, will be absorbed by the collections this year.

The act of 1873 authorized the issue of \$1,000,000 bonds bearing 6 per cent. gold interest and maturing in 30 years; five hundred thousand dollars to be sold at not less than 80 cents. Of these, the \$265,000 mentioned above have been sold, and 379 of the hypothecated bonds of 1868 and 1869 have been redeemed and cancelled, and the rest under hypothecation will be redeemed when presented. There remains \$235,000 of the State bonds to be sold. When this is accomplished, and the other \$500,000 of

these bonds are applied to the redemption of the outstanding bonds named in the act, then the debt will be as follows:

Bonds of 1871, (currency).....	\$ 350,000
Bonds of 1873, (gold)	1,000,000
School and Seminary debt, (no bonds)	262,045
Total.....	\$1,612,045

A tax of four mills upon the dollar is levied upon the real and personal property of the State to pay interest upon and form a sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds of 1873; and this tax can be applied to no other purpose. The valuation of the taxable property being \$30,000,000, there will be levied a tax of \$120,000 for this purpose. Allowing very liberally for delinquency, this will pay the interest and form a sinking fund of at least two per cent. upon the principal of the bonds. The Comptroller is directed by the law of 1871 to apportion annually such an amount among the several counties as will pay the interest and one per cent. of the principal of the bonds of 1871.

One hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars of the bonds mentioned as "other outstanding bonds," are held by the Indian Trust Fund in Washington, and it is expected that the claims of the State of Florida against the United States for expenses incurred by the State during the Indian war will be sufficient to extinguish this amount.

In 1870 the State loaned its credit to the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad Company, by the issue of bonds to the amount of \$4,000,000, taking a first mortgage for a similar amount upon the road as security, of which amount about \$3,000,000 have been sold. No other bonds in aid of railroads are outstanding, and no more will be issued, as the act entitled "An act relating to the indebtedness of the State" prohibits the further issuance of bonds for any purpose whatever.

It will be seen from the above report of the Comptroller, that after the million bonds now offered to investors shall have been disposed of, the bonded debt proper of the State of Florida will not exceed the insignificant sum of \$1,350,000. The School and Seminary Fund, viz—\$262,045, exists only by enactment, no bonds having been issued for it; consequently this debt cannot pass the bounds of the State.

We recommend the above bonds to the confidence of investors as a safe and valuable security. The price is 80c., with accrued interest to date of delivery, payable in currency.

L. P. B. & Co.

(CONTRACT.)

NEW YORK, June 14, 1873.

*Sold John Varnum, Treasurer,**By L. P. Bayne & Co., 54 Broad street.*

\$50,000 New Florida 6 per cent. Gold Bonds, 80c.

July 1, 1873, Coupon off, - - - - - \$40,000

Charged and approved in account current rendered October 23, 1873.

L. P. BAYNE & CO.

Per C. A. H.

CLEVELAND, O., Oct. 24, 1873.

\$40,464.—Take notice, that a draft dated May 29, A. D. 1873, for \$40,464, drawn by John Varnum, Treasurer, payable to the order of L. P. Bayne & Co., at G. F. Lewis or L. P. Hadly, and endorsed by you, was this evening protested for non-payment, the same having been presented and payment demanded, which was refused.

The holder thereof looks to you for payment.

J. M. CARRAN, Notary Public.

To John Varnum, Treasurer.

(CONTRACT.)

NEW YORK, October 15, 1873.

*Sold John Varnum, Treasurer,**By L. P. Bayne & Co., 54 Broad street.*

\$50,000 New Florida 6 per cent. Gold Bonds, 80c.

January 1, 1874, Coupon off. \$40,000

Charged and approved in account current rendered Oct. 23, 1873.

L. P. BAYNE & CO.

Per C. A. H.

OFFICE OF L. P. BAYNE & Co.,

No. 54 Broad street,

New York, Oct. 15, 1873. }

Gen. JOHN VARNUM, Treasurer;

Dear Sir: We beg to inform you of the protest of your draft on G. F. Lewis for \$40,435.70.

Referring to our letter to you of the 10th inst., upon the matter of balance due by Mr. Lewis under his contract with the institution you represent, and which appears from present indications (and because, in our judgment, of the *disturbed* and *unsettled* condition of the finances of the country at large,) that the payment thereof is likely to be deferred, allow us to submit to you the following proposition, viz: We will sell to you 50 M

Florida 6 per cent. gold bonds at 80c. *less the January coupon*, we undertaking to collect the balance due by Lewis upon his contract, free from all charges of commission or exchange, (which is at this time very heavy,) or any other expense to be incurred in the same to *you*; and after we are paid \$40,000 for the said 50 M bonds, which we will deliver to you at once upon the acceptance of this proposition, the remainder, whatever it may be, coming into our hands, shall be paid over to you.

Yours respectfully,

L. P. BAYNE & Co.

P. S.—There stands to your credit, interest collected from Lewis on the transaction made with you on the 14th June last, \$200, subject to your check.

L. P. B. & Co.

Upon motion, the report of Treasurer Varnum was, by unanimous vote, approved and adopted, with thanks for the faithful and efficient manner in which he had carried out the instructions of the Board.

It was unanimously ordered that the Treasurer be instructed to make a special deposit with the State Treasurer, subject to the order of the Executive Committee, of the \$100,000 of bonds now in his hands and belonging to the College, and that the Treasurer's receipt therefor be recorded.

A communication from the Comptroller suggesting the character he desired to be given to the annual report was then read and referred to the President and Secretary.

The Secretary was instructed to correspond with members habitually absent and suggest their occasional attendance upon the meetings of the Board if they desire to remain members.

RECEIPT OF STATE TREASURER.

Received on deposit in the State Treasury, subject to the order of the Executive Committee of Trustees of Florida State Agricultural College, the following described bonds, belonging to the Florida State Agricultural College Fund, viz:

One Hundred State of Florida 30 year 6 per cent. Gold Bonds of \$1,000 each.

No. 1	to	5	inclusive—	5	Bonds,	Coupons	No. 2	to	60
No. 11	to	25	"	15	"	"	No. 3	to	60
No. 31	to	35	"	5	"	"	No. 3	to	60
No. 126	to	150	"	25	"	"	No. 2	to	60
No. 151	to	170	"	20	"	"	No. 2	to	60
No. 171	to	200	"	30	"	"	No. 3	to	60

[Signed]

CHAS. H. FOSTER,
Treasurer State of Florida.

Tallahassee, Fla., Dec. 2, 1873.

Such, Mr. President, is a very full and complete abstract of the records of the Board and the Executive Committee, with accompanying documents so arranged as to time as to give a continuous narrative of all their acts and doings.

The Executive Committee in June proceeded to Gainesville for the purpose of perfecting the location there of the Agricultural College, but failed at that time to accomplish their object on account of the inability of the citizens at that time to comply with the conditions of the guarantee upon which the location was provisionally made.

Further action in the matter of location of the College has been delayed in the hope and confident expectation that upon the assembling of Congress the Tampa Reservation will, by special enactment, be granted for the use of the College; but several very favorable propositions for the location of the College have already been made, and should the application for the Tampa Reservation fail, immediate steps for the location of the College will be taken.

In the confident expectation that, now that the funds of the College are safely invested in State bonds, a few months will provide our State, in accordance with the plan and system here-in contained and already adopted, with an institution that both as a normal school and as an agricultural institution, will minister at once to the most pressing educational wants of the State,

I have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully,

J. S. ADAMS, *Secretary.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Hon. J. C. GIBBS,

Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Sir: In accordance with the requirements of law, I respectfully submit my annual report as Treasurer of the Agricultural College Fund.

On the 11th day of October, I submitted a full report of my doings under instructions from the Board and Executive Committee in relation to the collection and disposition of the moneys belonging to the Fund. It will not be necessary for me to go over that ground again. Please consider that report as part of my annual report.

JON. VARNUM, Treas., in acc't with the Agricultural College Fund.

DR.

To One Hundred State of Florida thirty year 6 per cent. Gold Bonds of \$1,000 each, on deposit in the State Treasury, subject to the order of the Executive Committee of the Trustees of said Fund.....	\$100,000 00
To balance in U. S. Currency received from the sale of Land Scrip.....	1,135 70

Total.....	\$101,135 70
Amount expended.....	1,001 85
On hand.....	\$100,133 85

By currency paid on approved bills—

By currency paid to Wm. D. Bloxham for two trips to Washington and one to Cleveland, Ohio.....	\$430 00
By currency paid to J. S. Adams to expenses incurred in going to Washington in the spring of 1873, in relation to obtaining the Agricultural College Scrip.....	115 00
By currency paid to Jno. Varnum, Treasurer, to expenses incurred in going to New York—two trips, and to Cleveland, Ohio—one trip, from New York, to obtain the money due the Fund on contract with G. F. Lewis, of Cleveland	\$409 00
By currency paid for Telegram received in New York from the Board.....	6 40
By currency paid for tin trunk for use of Treasurer and lettering.....	6 25
By currency paid on exchange of draft to Freedmen's Savings Bank.....	4 70
By currency paid for blank book for use of Treasurer.....	1 50
By currency paid J. S. Adams, Secretary of Board, for R. R. fare, and expenses while attending meetings of the Board	29 00

\$1,001 85

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN VARNUM, *Treasurer.*

APPENDIX.

ALACHUA COUNTY.

Superintendent, Hon. W. K. Cessna, Gainesville. Schools, 36; gain, 13; pupils, 1,953; gain, 714. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$4,879.83; total amount from the State, \$1,945; total amount expended by the board, \$7,298.48; total cost, \$7,648.48.

The total number of children in attendance on the public schools of Alachua county, for the scholastic year ending September 30, 1873, was 1,953; the general average attendance was \$1,121. Total amounts of salaries paid teachers was \$6,400. There were 36 schools taught in the county, of which 3 were continued during the entire year; 8 were continued for six months, and the balance for three and four months each.

BAKER COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. W. Howell, Sanderson. Schools, 2; pupils, 75. Received from the county one mill tax, \$119.85; received from the State, \$134. The Superintendent writes as follows:

SANDERSON, Fla., October 30, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Tallahassee, Fla.:

SIR: Owing to the expense incurred in organizing the free school system and establishing schools in 1871, we have only been able to support a very limited number of schools since, but I feel confident that we will be able to pay our entire indebtedness this year, and begin a new era in the school interest in the future.

Very respectfully,

J. W. HOWELL,
Superintendent County Schools, Baker county.

BRADFORD COUNTY.

Superintendent, A. Lawrence, Starke. The following letter is from the Chairman of the Board of Public Instruction, Mr. Isaac J. Hatch, an earnest friend of public schools:

STARKE, Fla., November 7, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, State Superintendent Public Instruction:

DEAR SIR: On inspection our itemized blank will be found incomplete, not, however, from apathy on our part, but from prohibition on the part of some of the heretofore leaders of the county in financial as well as political circles. We have been obliged to get all the information we have obtained by going over the county and making personal inquiry of citizens in regard to the progress of free schools, which we have found entirely unsatisfactory to every tax-payer, and an entire disgust of the free school system prevails, except among those who have

been made acquainted with the distribution of the school funds by our predecessors in office. You ask why? Because the laboring classes have derived so little benefit and seen so little diffusion of knowledge from public resources. We have had a good many pretended free schools, but the teachers were always paid by the patrons, with a promise from the school officials that the amount paid for tuition would be refunded when collected from the State or tax collector; and they have been waiting patiently from 1871 until now, when they are told that each school year's fund received from the State and county cannot be taken to pay debts of the previous year. Money has been received from the old treasury for the payment of the patrons for tuition paid teachers, but from apathy, the money crisis, or the decline of the price of *turpentine*, or *forgetfulness*, the losers have not been remunerated. But with a great deal of exertion on the part of the members of the board, the prospect is much more cheering now than it has been for six months past. With the amount of funds on hand, and that which will soon be received from the collector, we expect to start between 6 and 12 schools, and have sufficient money at the end of each term to pay the teachers for their services, and not run the county or school board in debt by employing more teachers than we have means to pay, and have to issue scrip, as has been done, or in some cases issue scrip and keep the money on hand.

November 8, 1873.

I this day received a line from you regarding a school at Trail Ridge. There are about 15 children at Trail Ridge, in this county. The rest of them live in Clay county. We have sent our Superintendent down to-day to see what can be done. Our great desire is to have the schools in this county in a prosperous condition as soon as possible.

I remain yours very respectfully,

ISAAC J. HATCH,

Chairman County Board Public Instruction, Bradford county, Fla.

CALHOUN COUNTY.

Superintendent, Alexander Hawkins, Abe's Springs. Whole number of schools, 8; gain, 1. Received from the State, \$78.06; one mill tax, \$88.35. Tax assessed for schools not reported.

This report is incomplete. The Superintendent writes: "We have established schools as above reported. There are several private schools in successful operation, which will be adopted as public schools as soon as the board can obtain means."

CLAY COUNTY.

Superintendent, Ozias Buddington, Middleburg. Schools, 4; pupils, 60. Total amount received from the State, \$127; total amount received from the county not stated; total amount expended, \$255.75.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Superintendent, A. H. Hutchinson, Lake City. Schools, 25; enrolled pupils, 1,231; average attendance, 860; State aid, \$804.47; number of days taught, 66. Total expenditure for

schools, \$2,910; total amount received from the county, \$2,952.20.

DADE COUNTY.

E. T. Sturtevant, Superintendent. No report. It is believed that no schools have been maintained by the Board of Instruction. The number of youth is small, and the population widely scattered, as in Brevard.

DUVAL COUNTY.

Wm. H. Christy, Superintendent, Jacksonville. Schools, 25; whole number of pupils in attendance, 1,252. Treasurer's account shows by receipt and expenditures from March 1, 1872, to July 1, 1873, an outlay of \$20,472.30 State and county tax, not including the apportionment of the interest from the school fund for 1873, \$912.50, which was not drawn until October, 1873. The above \$20,572.30 was derived from the following sources:

From J. J. Month, collector of revenue:	
General State and county tax, - - - -	\$13,593.18
From P. Jones, collector of revenue, as above, -	5,479.12
From Peabody Fund, - - - -	1,400.00
Total, - - - - -	\$20,472.30

Duval Graded High School, Jacksonville, Fla.

Board of Public Instruction—Captain C. B. Wilder, Mr. Samuel Spearling, Hon. J. S. Adams, Hon. J. M. Daniel, Rev. T. W. Moore chairman.

Corps of Instructors—J. Wofford Tucker, Principal and Professor of English Literature; Rev. L. Webb, Professor of Languages and Mathematics; Miss J. A. Treadwell, Instructor in Vocal Music and English Branches; Miss Nellie Murdoch, Assistant in English; Mrs. Julia Livingston, Assistant Preparatory Department.

The scholastic year embraces two sessions—from the first of October to the first of February, and from the first of February to the first of June.

No tuition fees are charged.

The order and classification of the school are as perfect as practicable, and the work of instruction is most carefully and accurately done.

It is the design of the board to furnish to the youth of this country the most favorable opportunity to acquire either a liberal English education, or to fit themselves for any college.

Course of study in Duval High School.

First Year.—1st Session—Written Arithmetic, Physiology, Latin Grammar, English Grammar, English Composition, History of United States.
2d Session—Algebra, Chemistry, Latin Reader, English Grammar, Goldsmith and Composition, History of United States.

Second Year.—1st Session—Algebra, Chemistry, Caesar, Sketch Book,

Irving, Composition, History of England. 2d Session—Geometry, Book-keeping, Caesar, Latin Composition, Milton and Composition, Ancient History, Ancient Geography.

Third Year.—1st Session—Trigonometry, Geology, Ovid, Latin Composition, Shakespeare and Composition, Ancient History, Ancient Geography. 2d Session—Navigation, Surveying, Zoology, Virgil, Greek or French, Rhetoric, Mental Philosophy.

Fourth Year.—1st Session—Analytical Geometry, Botany, Cicero, Anabasis, or French Logic, Moral Philosophy. 2d Session—Philosophy and Mechanics, Astronomy, Horace, Herodotus or French, Political Economy, Constitutional Law.

Music to be taught throughout the course.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY.

George W. Lindsay, Superintendent, Pensacola. Schools, 11; total attendance, 1,219. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$3,548; received from the State apportionment, from interest on school fund, \$588.84. Total expenditure for schools, \$3,290.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

F. B. Wakefield, Superintendent, Apalachicola. Schools, 2; total attendance, 135. Public money from the county, \$884.49; State interest on school fund, \$97.94; balance from 1872, \$211.92. Total expenditure for schools, \$1,021.

GADSDEN COUNTY.

Samuel Hamlin, Superintendent, Quincy. Whole number of schools, 30; attendance, 1,151. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$3,946.94; from the State, interest on school fund, \$436.48. Total amount expended by the board for the year 1872-73, \$5,302; total cost for the year 1872-73, \$6,585. Private contributions, \$1,283.

HAMILTON COUNTY.

S. L. Taylor, Superintendent, Jasper. Schools, 23; attendance, 664. Total amount received from the county, of public money for the year 1872-73, not stated; total amount of public money received from the State, \$324.81. Total amount expended by the board, \$1,018.80. Total cost, \$2,044.

HERNANDO COUNTY.

Superintendent, T. S. Coogler, Brooksville. Schools, 16; gain, 6. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$1,127; total amount from the State, \$204.50; total amount expended by the board for 1873, \$1,119.01; balance public money on hand, \$451.04.

The following letter is from the Superintendent :

BROOKSVILLE, Fla., October 1, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent Public Instruction :

DEAR SIR: Our board met yesterday and located fifteen schools for the ensuing year. We do not owe a dollar on account of past operations, but on the contrary, as you will observe from the report, we have a considerable sum to our credit, and the tax collector is due us a few hundreds on account of school taxes for 1872. The Comptroller's warrants have not been disposed of, because we did not need the money and hoped that we could realize more by retaining them. With this as a starting point, I see no reason why the school operations for the incoming year cannot be carried on satisfactorily and well.

Hoping that the same may meet your approval, I am very respectfully,
your obedient servant,

T. S. COOGLER,
Superintendent for Hernando County.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

Superintendent, W. F. White, Tampa. Schools, 19 ; gain, 5 ; average daily attendance, 400. Total amount from the county, \$1,874.40 ; total amount from the State, \$288.80 ; total amount expended by the board for 1872 and 1873, \$1,990.52 ; balance on hand, \$172.68.

JACKSON COUNTY.

Superintendent, C. E. Harvey, Marianna. Schools, 20 ; gain, 2 ; daily average, 400. Total amount received from the county for 1871 and 1872, \$4,529.15 ; total amount received from the State for 1871 and 1872, \$3,601.37 ; total amount expended by the board for 1871 and 1872, \$7,447 ; balance on hand, \$683.52.

The progress of public sentiment in relation to the cause of public education is marked, and a matter of rejoicing to all. Several donations have this year been presented to the Board of Public Instruction by the citizens of the county ; one instance a handsome tract of land, and in another a substantial building for school purposes.

The following letter will be read with interest :

MARIANNA, Fla., November 21, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Tallahassee, Fla. :

DEAR SIR: Your communication of the 12th inst. received, and in reply would take pleasure in stating that the schools of our county are in a flourishing condition, numbering in all some twenty-eight schools, fourteen of which are constantly in operation. Since the School Board of Education has been under the control of its present members, it has grown rapidly in confidence of patrons and children, and all show marked improvement. The chairman of the board, Mr. L. M. Gamble, seems to take a most lively interest in the education of our poor and ignorant children, and has donated forty acres of land to build a large colored school at Bethlehem District, and says he intends to open a contribution list among the people next year in order to assist in building the house. The

site is in a large settlement, good location, and a fine healthy spot, and plenty of timber to assist in keeping it in order and enclosed. Another citizen, Mr. J. W. Cook, has given one acre of land to the school in the Mount Tabor or Killgore District. The Board of Education have put up a good comfortable log school-house on it, and it will be put in operation on the 1st of January next.

In a few words I would assure your Honor that the educational interests of this county are watched over and guarded by a board whose whole interest is for its advancement to the highest standard. It is true we have among us enemies to the advancement of our colored children, but these are such that they are neither feared or noticed at all. Most of the schools have now closed until January 1st, having finished the scholastic year (nine months), but we all hope next year will be ushered in with a fresh burst of enthusiasm, and a higher appreciation of the education of our children, for there is nothing truer than your maxim sent us, that "What ye would have appear in the life of a nation must first be incorporated into its common schools."

With kind regards for myself and Mr. L. M. Gamble, who asks to be remembered to you, I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. E. HARVEY,

Superintendent Public Instruction, Jackson County.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. W. Johnson, Monticello. Schools, 38; gain, 13; pupils, 1,414. Total amount received from the county, \$4,000; total amount received from the State, \$2,163. Total amount expended by the board for the years 1872 and 1873, \$6,200.

A large, convenient, handsome school-building has been erected this year in Monticello, chiefly by donations of the citizens, and some of the best teachers in this State employed.

The board expect to erect several plank school-houses this winter. The new building has four rooms; each room accommodates eighty pupils. Well done, Jefferson!

LEON COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. P. Apthorp, Tallahassee. Schools, 43; gain, 8; pupils, 1,419. Total amount of school tax collected for 1872, \$4,158.44; total amount received from the State, \$2,079.22 cash, \$1,421.13 scrip; Superintendent of Peabody Fund, \$800; West Florida Seminary Fund, \$467.98. Total amount expended by the board for 1872, \$9,085.78.

The following letter will be read with interest:

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., November 12, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, State Superintendent of Education:

DEAR SIR: In regard to school operations in Leon county I have to report that during the years 1872 and 1873 there were organized in this county forty schools. These were continued for terms varying from one to eight months in length, with very uniform success. Ten only of these

reported an attendance of less than twenty pupils. The rest numbered from twenty up to seventy, daily average.

These schools were established where the need seemed most pressing, and the people manifested most interest in having them. This number of schools, however, by no means supplies the demand. Were the means at hand for paying competent teachers, their number might be largely increased. Respectfully,

J. P. APTHORP,
Superintendent of Schools, Leon County, Florida.

LEVY COUNTY.

Superintendent, Thomas B. Faitoute, Bronson. Schools, 21; gain, 21; pupils, 478. Amount received from the county not stated; total amount from the State, \$153.77. Total amount of school tax assessed for 1873, \$2,806.95.

The Superintendent, under date of October 1st, writes as follows:

BRONSON, Levy County, Fla., October 1, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tallahassee, Fla.:

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find the annual report of school operations for Levy county, for the scholastic year ending September 30, 1873. It is not as full as I would like to have had it, but it is the best I could do under the circumstances. The financial condition of the county school treasury being so low, we were obliged to accept any one for teachers who were willing to teach on promises, so that most of our teachers were inexperienced, though we had some very good teachers, who took an interest in the work. The citizens are beginning to see the benefit of free schools, and most of them are willing to assist in paying teachers, though most of the patrons are too poor to do much. People live too scattering in the country to have large schools, which makes it very expensive to employ good teachers for all. The children are allowed to go astray at home, as suits them best, so that it is almost impossible to keep a full school, and we were obliged to pay our teachers for them all, whether they attended or not. We could not get teachers for all the schools, because we could not promise to pay in full at the end of the quarter, and but few good teachers wish to take a school for only three months, and we could not promise a longer term.

We have decided to close our schools for the present, and get square, and have some money on hand before we commence again. If taxes are collected, and the money paid over promptly, there is no reason why Levy county cannot have as good schools as any county in the State, and for as long a term. The citizens are willing to pay their taxes and help support the schools besides, and I hope the scholastic year of 1874 will close with a better record than any since the free schools went into operation. There should be at least six months school a year to be of much benefit to the children, and it is useless to spend so much money, year after year, without benefiting them. Respectfully yours,

T. B. FAITOUTE,
Superintendent of Schools, Levy County.

LIBERTY COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. W. Hosford, Coe's Mills. Schools, 5; gain, 5; pupils, 372. Total amount received from the county, \$272; amount received from the State, \$89.89.

The following letter is from the Superintendent :

COE'S MILLS, Fla., November 20, 1873.

Hon. Jonathan C. Gibbs, Superintendent of Public Instruction :

DEAR SIR: Thus you see that our finances and treasury are very poor. The county commissioners do not put but the one-mill constitutional tax for school purposes. I cannot give you the exact amount of funds we ought to have in our treasury, from the fact that our tax assessor and collector have failed to make settlements with the treasurer for the last several years.

We are careful not to promise to pay teachers only when we know we can pay them, and by this means we are not in debt. We manage to employ teachers whenever and wherever we can, paying them as much as our funds will allow, and the patrons make up the salary by subscription. We do not attempt to employ a teacher for more than three months in the year, at the same place, and allow the patrons to choose the time in the year.

I have just returned from an extensive tour over the county, consulting with the people with regard to schools, and find considerable interest. Nothing but poverty is detrimental to schools in this county, for those who live out of reach of schools would board their children if they were able. This county is sparsely settled, the people generally poor, and farm for a livelihood. Many live entirely out of reach of schools.

There is a better ratio of colored children in schools in this county than white, from the fact that the colored people generally live in the settled portion of the county. There are now three colored schools in operation, well managed; one at Bristol, being taught by a white man of fine culture. I have just visited all the schools, and I am pleased with their progress.

Hoping this report will be in time, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. HOSFORD,

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Liberty County, Fla.

MADISON COUNTY.

Superintendent, Hon. Dennis Eagan, Madison. Schools, 22; pupils, 1,298. Total amount received from the county for 1872 and 1873, \$3,726.39; total amount received from the State, \$1,591.31; total amount expended by the board for the year 1872-3, \$6,096.50.

Superintendent writes as follows :

MADISON, Fla., November 3, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent Public Instruction, Tallahassee, Fla. :

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a detailed report of schools in operation in this county for the scholastic year ending September 30, 1873. I regret that I have been unable to forward the report earlier, but trust that it is not too late to be used in preparing your annual message. The friends of popular education in this county have every reason to congratulate themselves upon the progress made by the public schools during the scholastic year just closed. The number of schools and scholars in attendance have not only increased, but the schools were of a better order, having been brought to a higher standard by the employment of more competent teachers, which has had the desired effect in securing the sympathy and assistance of all classes of citizens, and from the

impetus thus secured we may hope for good results in the future. The school officers have been judicious in their action in not overdoing themselves, and have limited the number of schools to that which our funds would warrant. By this course they have been able to pay promptly when due every obligation or contract with teachers or others in United States currency, thus securing the best of feeling between the board and those brought in contact with it, and all seem satisfied with the management.

The colored school here (in Madison) is all that its friends could wish. The progress made by the pupils of this school, when compared with others, is truly wonderful, and can only be accounted for from the fact that they have been favored with the best of teachers. Miss Ferguson, a lady who has had many years' experience as a teacher in the public schools of New York, has had the management of the school for the past year, and to her and her able assistant is due the credit of bringing the school up to the highest standard of morality and scholarship. They not only done their duty as instructors in the school-room, but visited the scholars at their homes, thus exercising a wholesome influence over the parents as well as the children, and the entire community has been greatly benefited by this work. The interest they have manifested in their duties has done much towards removing the suspicion and distrust with which a certain class of our citizens look upon any Northern lady who might come South for the purpose of teaching colored schools, and by their noble acts they have gained the respect and esteem of even those who have always regarded the Yankee school marm as an evil and something to be dreaded.

After repeated efforts, we finally succeeded in establishing a colored school at Ellaville, with a Northern lady, Miss Simon, as teacher. Strange as it may appear, this lady met with every opposition from the white people of the place, but, notwithstanding such opposition, she succeeded in laying a foundation for a school that she may well feel proud of.

It has been the policy of the board to interfere as little as possible with the selection of teachers for the white schools, allowing the patrons in each school district to select their own teacher, the board only asking that such selections be of competent teachers who were able to stand the required examination. The school fund is distributed to each school district in proportion to the number of children residing in such district between the ages of six and twenty years, the board exacting one month's free school for every \$25 of the public fund paid to each district. Special provision in regard to the distribution of funds were made for the white school here (Madison), and the trustees had always been allowed to engage teachers, the board never interfering more than to pay all orders for salary of teachers, which was generally large. The school had not succeeded as well as we had reason to expect, the teachers employed had most always given general dissatisfaction, and the result was that no one took any great interest in the school. The attendance was generally very small. At the close of the last term I was instructed by the board to inform the trustees that they would take immediate steps towards procuring a gentleman teacher for the coming session, and in compliance with instructions from the board I engaged a gentleman who had long taught in the public schools of New York, and one who was highly recommended. He opened school on the first Monday of the present scholastic year with a fair attendance, and the number has daily increased, and his average attendance now exceeds sixty scholars, while at no time during the last two years has the average been greater than thirty. Both patrons and scholars are highly pleased with the school, and I have every reason to believe that I shall be able to make a favorable mention of the school in my next report.

The board have adopted the system of text-books recommended by your department, and are making considerable progress in introducing them into the different schools. We find no difficulty in introducing them into the colored schools, but the children of the white schools object to them because they are the same kind of books as those used in the colored schools. Teachers have been instructed to insist on the introduction of the books into their schools, providing the scholars have not a sufficient uniformity of other books to allow them to be properly classed, and we hope to see, at the close of the present school year, the same series of books used in every school in the county.

The assessor has prepared and turned over to me a careful and correct census return of the children residing in the county between the ages of five and twenty-one years, giving the name and age of each one reported. The returns show that we have fifty-two between those ages, showing an increase of three over that of last year.

There has been a great change in public sentiment on the subject of free schools in this county during the last year. Men who bitterly opposed the system a few years ago, and who regarded it as a political hobby to be used for party purposes, begin to reflect and see the necessity of educating the masses. They now willingly co-operate and render me all the assistance possible. So great has been the change that we have six Northern ladies teaching colored schools outside of Madison, and have been able to obtain board for them with the best of families living near their respective schools. This is something that but few counties in the State can boast of. I am, sir, very respectfully, your affectionate servant,

DENNIS EAGAN, County Superintendent.

The following is a list of names of teachers employed in Madison county, Florida, with post-office address, for the scholastic year ending September 30, 1873: Miss Hattie Ferguson, Miss Kate Livingston, Miss Kate Lunan, Donald Patterson, C. S. Hadley, S. H. Howe, B. D. Wadsworth, F. W. Aggnew, Columbus McLeod, Miss Julia McLeod, Mrs. M. E. Lester, Mills Elliott, George W. Overstreet, C. N. Richardson, J. W. West, George Washington, J. S. Sutton, Mrs. M. A. Moye, Miss Carrie Bryan, Madison, Fla.; Amos DeGaughtes, Mosely Hall, Fla.; E. J. Alexander, Isaac Cook, Paris Singleton, Station No. 5, Fla.; J. H. Hoover, Shady Grove, Fla.

MANATEE COUNTY.

Superintendent, John F. Bartholf, Pine Level. Schools, 9; gain, 5; pupils, 200. Total amount from the county, \$550; total amount from the State for the year 1872-73, \$330. Total amount expended by the board, \$814.81. Contributed in board by the citizens, \$230; cash in hand for the year ending September 30, 1873, \$561.06.

The following interesting letter is from the Superintendent:

PINE LEVEL, Manatee County, Fla., October 8, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs:

DEAR SIR: We have adopted an entirely new system. Our experience in the past has been that where teachers are employed at a fixed salary,

and that a liberal one, the attendance is too frequently not enough to justify the expense. Accordingly, this year, upon my recommendation, the school board decided to allow every neighborhood that could make up a school of at least ten pupils, to (upon consultation with the County Superintendent) employ a teacher upon terms most advantageous to themselves, and start a school, which was to be conducted strictly according to law; the teacher making his regular monthly returns, which were to be sworn to by him, and certified to by a majority of the patrons as correct, and upon which returns the county allows one dollar per month for each pupil shown to have attended regularly, not to exceed twenty-five dollars per month to any one school for a term of five months.

It is hoped by this plan to secure a greater interest on the part of parents in sending their children regularly to school, in order that the amount that they will have to pay may be lessened, and it will also induce the teacher to greater efforts in the discharge of his duties. Moreover, remote neighborhoods, thinly populated, will be enabled to have the benefit of the free school fund.

We are erecting some fine frame school-houses, well fitted up with desks, seats, teacher's stand, &c., the first in this county—as heretofore our schools have been kept in some old log outbuilding or other, badly exposed to the weather, and almost entirely destitute of proper desks and seats.

We still labor under great difficulty in procuring fit and competent teachers. I am satisfied that a dozen or more persons competent to instruct in the primary branches, could find employment here from September until March, at salaries ranging from fifteen to twenty dollars per month. What an opportunity does not this afford to Northern people (especially invalids) to escape the cold, enjoy the benefits of our delightful climate, and realize plenty to defray all expenses here and return, and have in addition the satisfaction of knowing that they are aiding the education of the rising generation.

There is about to be erected at Manatee, as I am informed, a handsome school-building for the education of the colored children at that place, by means of funds contributed by benevolent people at the North, and also a residence for the teacher. This has been effected through the efforts of a Miss E. Garrison, and another lady, agents of the American Missionary Society, who, happening at Manatee, and observing the ignorance and degradation prevailing among the colored people at that place, went bravely to work, and notwithstanding the most bitter persecution on the part of the white population of the place, being totally discountenanced and shut out from society, every door closed against them, and compelled to accept an old outhouse, and finally erect a shelter by their own labor, they organized a colored school and conducted it through the winter. I gave them all the assistance in my power, and succeeded in having an appropriation made, which, however, but poorly paid them for their valuable services and what they had to undergo. I look for their return this winter, and hope to aid them much more. The establishment of this school at Manatee will be a great advantage to the colored population at that place, and a great inducement to immigrants—not, however, the only one which the place affords. It is beautifully located on the Manatee river, a thriving little village, with several stores, saw-mill, churches, &c. The best of hammock land abounds, which can be bought cheap, or homesteaded. Health is good, fish and oysters plentiful, labor in great demand at good wages.

JOHN F. BARTHOLO.

MARION COUNTY.

Superintendent, W. J. Tucker, Ocala. Schools, 30; pupils, 1,300. Total amount of school tax assessed for 1872, \$4,562;

total amount school tax collected in 1872, \$4,176.28; total amount school tax assessed for 1873, \$5,896.47. Total amount of public money received from the county for 1872, \$4,176.28; total amount received from the State, \$629.85. Total amount expended by the board for 1872, \$4,758.73. Total expenditure for schools, \$4,758.73.

MONROE COUNTY.

Superintendent, Hon. J. W. Locke, Key West. Schools, 10—considered in the report as 2, but equivalent to 10; pupils, 586. Total amount received from the county, \$5,121.23; total amount from the State, \$1,564.04. Amount paid Board of Public Instruction, 0!! Total amount expended by the board, \$5,678.02. Cash on hand, in addition to 18 bonds of 1871, \$1,007.28. Private contributions, reserved for building, \$1,000.

The following letter is from the Hon. J. W. Locke, United States District Judge, Key West:

KEY WEST, Fla., October 4, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent of Public Instruction:

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to forward annual report for the past year. Our schools are flourishing finely, and although we have not such an array in numbers, yet in character of the schools I do not consider ours are surpassed in the State. For the past year we have had in operation two schools, with eight teachers, for ten full months. Our teachers are paid annual salaries, and paid promptly in United States currency at the end of every quarter.

We have purchased a house lot for the building of a new school-house, for which we have paid \$1,000, and soon intend erecting a building capable of accommodating from 500 to 600 pupils, in ten or twelve divisions. I consider the system of large schools subdivided preferable by far to numerous small, independent schools.

We have this year (October 1) started, in addition to those in operation the past year, two schools, one a primary school, the other especially for the benefit of the Cuban population.

We have been fortunate in obtaining excellent teachers, both principals and assistants, who have taken a deep interest in their work, and gained the confidence of both pupils and parents, which fact has greatly increased the popularity of public school education.

There has been in attendance on the common schools a full number of 585. The low average shown in the report was caused by the prevalence of sickness among the scholars, interrupting the regularity of attendance.

Feeling desirous that the school tax should not be more burdensome than absolutely necessary, and believing that with the strictest economy they could get through the year, the board of education reduced the amount to be levied for county school tax from five mills, which it had been, to three mills.

Trusting that the cause of common school education will continue to prosper sufficiently to gratify the wishes of its most ardent friends, I have the honor to be, truly and sincerely yours,

J. W. LOCKE.

NASSAU COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. C. Emerson, Fernandina. Schools, 10; pupils, 342. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$1,395.25; total amount from the State, \$1,354.76. Total amount expended by the board, \$1,741.87. Balance of public money on hand for 1873, \$2,530.64.

ORANGE COUNTY.

Superintendent, N. W. Prince, Apopka. Schools, 8; pupils, 200. Total amount of money from the county not stated; total amount from the State for the years 1872 and 1873, \$233.34; total amount expended by the board for the years 1872 and 1873, \$1,731.46.

POLK COUNTY.

Superintendent, W. B. Varn, Bartow. Schools, 4; pupils, 100; gain, 4. Total amount of money received from the county not stated; total amount received from the State, \$170.32; total amount expended by the board for the year 1873, \$516.65. Balance of public money on hand for 1873, \$839.79. Source of this balance is not stated. Total expenditure, \$730.45.

The following is from the Superintendent:

BARTOW, September 19, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent Public Instruction:

DEAR SIR: In addition to schools reported, I beg leave to state that we have contracted with teachers to teach three others, two of which are now in successful operation, and the third will go into effect on the 20th of next month. Could competent teachers have been obtained to the extent of schools applied for, our report would have presented a more favorable appearance. Our citizens generally are anxious to avail themselves of the benefits of the system.

In addition to the want of a competent corps of teachers, is the necessity of a uniform series of text-books. It has been suggested by some of the friends of education, whose judgment is entitled to the highest credence, that we pay individually tuition one year so as to allow an accumulated fund to purchase the necessary globes, maps, books, &c. This would doubtless be a good move if met with universal favor. We find the citizens generally willing to contribute liberally in the support of schools.

In the hope of the continued growth of education in our county, we are yours very truly,

W. B. VARN, Superintendent.
N. S. BLOUNT, Chairman.

PUTNAM COUNTY.

Superintendent, Hon. E. R. Chadwick, Palatka. Schools, 12; pupils, 350; gain, 22. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$2,000; from the State, \$437.90; total amount expended by the board, \$2,074.83. Public money on hand, \$1,488.84.

The following letter is from the Superintendent:

PALATKA, Fla., November 22, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs:

SIR: The school records of Putnam county date as far back as 1856. At that time the number of school children in the county was 504, and the amount of school money received for that year, \$147.74; and, according to the records, the total amount of school money received by the county from 1856 to 1869—thirteen years—was \$707.24, and the total number of free schools established during that period was seven, each for a single term of from three to six months. With such a limited amount of funds, of course it was impossible to accomplish much towards maintaining free schools.

In 1869 the Board of Public Instruction of Putnam county was organized under the present law, but not until 1870 were any schools estab-

lished. Since that time from eight to twelve free schools have been in successful operation for the term of three months in each year. The number of school children in the county at this time is officially reported to be 1,459, and the amount of school tax levied for this year is \$2,813.93.

During the past year a new and comfortable school-house has been built in Palatka at a cost of about \$1,000, capable of accommodating 75 pupils, in which is now in successful operation one of the best schools in this part of the State. The number of schools for the present scholastic year will be increased to not less than fifteen, and the length of the school term fixed at five months, instead of three, as heretofore. It has been difficult to engage competent teachers for the short term of three months, but with the lengthening of the term I am confident that a better class of teachers can be secured, and in every way the results of the longer term will be an improvement. Some of the teachers, however, heretofore employed, have been both faithful and competent, and deserve much credit for the success they have attained.

The financial affairs of the School Board of this county have been managed on a cash basis, and this inspires confidence and respect in all who have dealings with the board, either as teachers or in any other capacity.

Public sentiment is much more favorable than formerly towards the free school system, and we have much encouragement to continue the work. And while there yet remains much to be done in order to secure the full benefit of our free schools to all the children of the county, yet we think that, under the circumstances, commendable progress has been made. Very respectfully,

E. R. CHADWICK,
County Superintendent.

SANTA ROSA COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. A. Chaffin, Milton. Schools, 8; pupils, 353; gain, 116. Total amount of money received from State and county, not stated. Total expenditure for schools, \$600. Cash on hand, \$29.69.

The Superintendent writes as follows:

MILTON, Fla., August 25, 1873.

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent Public Instruction, Tallahassee, Fla.:

DEAR SIR: You will see by the report that eight schools have been in operation in this county each for three months. They were very well scattered over the county, where, in my opinion, they were most needed, as a great many children had the advantage that never attended school before. There was but one school that taught higher branches than Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and Grammar, and very little of the two last. I could have carried on several more schools had I the money. The money that has been carried on the schools mentioned in this report was paid to me by the collector June 4, 1873, as the State and county school tax collected in and for the year 1871, and no county school tax for 1872. Now, if the State and county school tax is due the county, there are two other years that ought to be paid. Please let me know about it.

Your obedient servant,

J. A. CHAFFIN, County Superintendent.

SUMTER COUNTY.

Superintendent, A. P. Roberts, Leesburg. Schools, 7; pupils, 203. Total amount of public money received from the county not stated; received from the State, \$233.97; total amount expended by the board for 1873, \$750; total expenditure for schools, \$750.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY.

Superintendent, O. Bronson, St. Augustine. Schools, 10; gain, 1; pupils, 337. Total amount from the State and county, \$2,292.98. Contributions from citizens, including \$1,200 from Peabody Fund, \$2,763. Total cost, \$4,183.06; balance on hand, \$872.92.

The following letter is from the Superintendent :

To the Superintendent of Public Instruction :

DEAR SIR: I herewith submit my report of the schools in this county for the last scholastic year. There has been six schools in operation. In all instances where application has been made for the establishment of a school, and a teacher recommended by the trustees, a school has been opened.

Prospects are very favorable for the coming year. The chief difficulty in this county, which will take time for its removal, is the sparseness of its population and the distance of the families from any common centre.

The people feel their want of education, and are almost universally anxious that their children should not grow up under the same disadvantages which they experienced themselves. There is manifested in most of the precincts a commendable interest in the cause of education. I never heard but one person say that he did not want a school-house near him, for that would bring in settlers, and then what should he do for a range for his cattle.

What the State needs is an educated people, and for that the State should provide. The first requisite is the establishment of school-houses. I would suggest that all moneys belonging to the school fund should be used for that purpose and no other, as the simplest method of reaching the end in view and promoting the interest of education in the State until schools are built. While every one imbued with American principles feels that the State cannot be too closely allied to the schools, at least so far as to give to every inhabitant the benefit of an education qualified to make him a useful citizen, and enable him to employ his natural faculties to advantage. For this purpose the schools should be free to all. Nothing should be taught in the schools but what the State judges to be proper, and within their legitimate functions.

If the public free school system is to be carried out in this State (and we believe the American people, claiming the right to judge for themselves in this, one of the most important of all their rights, will carry it out), we must believe the schools discharge their duties and perform the functions entrusted to them, when they prepare their pupils to fight the great battle of life, in obedience to the laws of the State. We cannot be too careful that we do not attempt, or even allow, anything that would prevent any person from participating in their advantages. We believe in the duty of every person to be religious and to owe supreme allegiance to their Creator, and any school that teaches anything contrary to the laws of God we would cordially join in condemning. But teaching religion in any form is not one of the functions of a free public school, and this is the only form of school that the State intends to establish. It would be a manifest departure from the object for which they are established, and could only be proposed by those who would willingly see the whole system of public schools destroyed.

The Peabody school, in this city, retains its good reputation, and is in a very satisfactory condition. It well deserves the encouragement that it has received. It is patronized by our best citizens, without distinction. The Board of Trustees consists of all denominations, and perfect harmony has characterized all of their proceedings. Their children are, or have

been, all members of the school. I have heard of no objection to the school, except from those who object to the whole system on which our public schools are founded.

When a free public school was first spoken of in St. Augustine, Mr. Sears, the agent of the Peabody Fund, visited this city. The prospect was rather discouraging. Mr. Sears remarked, "You cannot have a school without scholars." The friends of the system about to be inaugurated carefully canvassed the city and came to the conclusion that not more than thirty pupils could be counted upon. On this calculation they borrowed money to enlarge the building which was used for public offices, and which had been given to the city for the purpose of a public school. Provision was made for 120 pupils, to meet any emergency. To their agreeable surprise the school opened with a much larger number than was expected. The school has steadily increased in size till now it becomes necessary to increase its accommodations, both as to room and teachers. Instead of petitioning for additional separate schools and division of the small allowance received from taxes, we greatly need increased funds to make this school what it should be, a model institution, capable of accommodating the whole city, and giving a complete education in those branches which it proposes to teach. It is only by the assistance of the Peabody Fund that our city schools are able to accomplish what they have. We do not fear that any such attempt as has been made to impair their resources will be received by the people, or their representatives, the Legislature, with any favor until a system of free education is abandoned.

The colored school occupies a commodious building erected by the Freedman's Bureau, and to it is attached a convenient cottage for the teacher's residence, owned by the American Missionary Association, in New York. This school has always maintained a high reputation. It has been a great blessing to those for whom it was established.

This city enjoys exceptional advantages for education. Its healthiness at all seasons of the year is such that schools could be kept open in summer as well as winter, with only the necessary vacations. The prospect of a greatly increased population and its facility of access when railroad communication shall be opened to Jacksonville, will conspire to make it a place of great resort.

The State needs a school of the highest character, sufficiently large to receive all that apply, and provided with a competent corps of teachers. I trust the time is not far distant when this need will be supplied.

Mr. Waterbury, the principal of the Peabody school, who is enthusiastically devoted to its interests, has collected over 150 volumes as a beginning of a well-selected library for the use of the school. As soon as a suitable building can be procured we hope to see this grow into a large public library.

O. BRONSON,

Superintendent of St. Johns County, Florida.

SUWANNEE COUNTY.

Superintendent, M. M. Blackburn, Live Oak. Schools, 21; gain, 12; pupils, 803; gain, 501. Total amount of public money received from the county not reported; total amount from the State, \$302.10; total amount of school tax collected for 1872, \$1,616.45; total amount of public money expended by the board, \$1,828.50. Total expenditures for schools, \$2,381.70, and of this amount \$907.40 was contributed by the citizens.

OFFICE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, }
LIVE OAK, Fla., November 15, 1873. }

Hon. J. C. Gibbs, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Florida, Tallahassee:

DEAR SIR: I herewith hand you my annual report of the operations of the Board of Public Instruction for Suwannee county for the year ending on the 30th of September, 1873.

The report shows that twenty-one schools were taught during the year, being an increase of twelve schools over the year previous; and the whole number of pupils attending school was 803, being an increase of 501 over the previous year. The average cost of each pupil to the school fund was \$2.28, while the average cost of each pupil for the same time the year previous was \$5.81, showing a reduction in the average cost of \$3.53 in favor of the year just closed. You will observe, however, that the patrons contributed liberally in some places to the support of the public schools, but when we include the amount contributed by patrons with that used by the board, the average cost of each pupil is still \$2.59 less than it was the previous year.

I am gratified to be able to report that all classes of our people are becoming more interested in the cause of education; and as an evidence of this fact, we have about ten applications for schools where no public schools have yet been taught. The board desire to extend scholastic aid to all the children in the county, as far as practical, believing that to be the meaning and intent of the school laws.

But, on account of the stringency of the times, they have only assessed the same amount of school tax that was assessed the previous year; and this has made it necessary to undertake the establishment of *aid schools*, as a pro rata distribution of the funds will not be sufficient to pay a teacher for the term of three months at any one place. To obviate this difficulty they have adopted a form of contract to be signed by patrons and teacher (a copy of which is herewith attached), before organizing a public school.

The board proposes to organize twenty-six schools during the next scholastic year on the plan proposed. They worked very well last year on a smaller scale, and we have hopes of greater results the coming year.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

M. M. BLACKBURN,
County Superintendent of Schools.

[Contract.]

SUWANNEE COUNTY, Fla., November , 1873.

School No. at

We, the undersigned patrons of said school, agree to pay to _____ for teaching a public school for three months in this scholastic year such an amount for each of our children, wards, or beneficiaries, subscribed as, when added to the sum of _____ dollars, received by him from the public fund, shall raise his compensation to _____ dollars for school month, it being understood that this obligation is several and binds each of us only for his or her proportionate part.

I, _____, agree to teach and govern said school according to the public school laws and the regulations of the Department of Public Instruction of Florida, commencing on the _____ day of November, 1873.

Teacher.

NAMES.	NO.	NAMES.	NO.

TAYLOR COUNTY.

Superintendent, Joseph S. Howell, Shady Grove. Schools, 9; gain, 2; pupils, 176. Total amount of public money expended by the board, \$498.32; contributed by the citizens, \$488.50; total expenditure for schools \$986.

VOLUSIA COUNTY.

No report this year, some change having taken place upon the board.

WAKULLA COUNTY.

Superintendent, Gustave Jaenicke, St. Marks. The late Superintendent, John Hogue, having died a few weeks since at Crawfordville, the county site of Wakulla, and no definite information in relation to the schools for the year ending September 30, 1873, has been received.

The following statement in relation to the work of the ensuing year is made by the Superintendent:

I entered upon the duties of my present office the first day of September, this year. The whole school year had nearly elapsed; therefore, I am only able to describe so far as progress and management of business is concerned, what I found in the records.

There were necessarily some schools established and no funds to pay the teachers with, who have performed their duty well and faithfully, and the schools were well attended by an average number of 250 pupils throughout the county. By overhauling the books I found \$2,000 debts due to teachers, and other arrearages. Considering it a great evil to open more schools than the funds allow, the board wisely concluded to have no school at all until there is money in the treasurer's hands.

The new scholastic year will open under more favorable auspices; there is a fresh hope and greater confidence in the present leader and manager of the school business in this county. All friends of popular and national education endeavor to get everybody interested in schools, so that the system of our free schools may be thought and considered as the vein of life in our State. Most all the citizens manifest the greatest interest in schools, and in fact they cheerfully co-operate and try to render me all assistance possible.

There will be school-houses freely offered and furnished by patrons, and they will comply with all the conditions exacted of them by the Board of Public Instruction in this county. I have had the opportunity of visiting various school-houses, but they are not as they should be. There were no desks or seats for the children, &c.

I admire the great zeal among the colored people to learn and to progress. They feel that education is bliss and economy, and ignorance is waste. They feel that a skilled workman will do more work, and in a better manner, than an uneducated man, who can only use his brute muscle.

Next year there will be at least four schools in operation, all the debts will be paid, and at the end of the year there will be a surplus of \$36.83.

The following will show how the finances stand :

Income by the one-mill tax for 1873.....	\$314.44
Income by county tax for 1873.....	1,256.11
Aid of the State.....	200.00
Due to the school fund by Robertson, late tax collector.....	168.28
Old taxes from 1872.....	50.00
On hand.....	50.00
Total.....	\$2,038.83
Itemized estimate for 1874.....	2,002.00
Balance.....	\$36.83

We will be out of debt, and that is to be considered the greatest advantage and the greatest step; yet we labor under many other obstacles, and chief among these is the scarcity of competent teachers. The rough material we have to use for that purpose, and unfortunately we cannot offer inducement sufficient to cause competent persons to come here and take charge of schools. The people are so widely scattered, and many are living in so remote and out of the way places, that it is impossible to benefit everybody, particularly in the next year, where, upon an area of about five hundred square miles, only four schools can be established. We must have competent teachers, and I shall make every possible effort to obtain them. What we can realize for next year (as shown above) will enable us to establish only three months' schools. The schools will be established where the population is the thickest, and I am happy to state that most of the people would make any sacrifice and submit to any inconvenience in order to send their children regularly to school.

In conclusion I have to remark that the so-called school scrip will be destroyed before the board, as it might come into the treasury; that next year such a thing will not exist any more, and matters will be on a cash basis.

GUSTAVE JAENICKE,
Superintendent of Schools.

ST. MARKS, November 3, 1873.

WALTON COUNTY.

Superintendent, Hon. J. L. McKinnon, Ucheeanna. Schools, 12; pupils, 427. Total amount of public money received from State and county, \$897.84; received from the citizens, private contributions, \$895; total amount of school tax collected in 1872, \$1,063.94; total expenditure for the schools, \$3,295.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Superintendent, Hon. Thomas Hannah, Vernon. Schools, 10; gain, 3; pupils, 283; gain, 88. Total amount of public money received from the county, \$974.33; from the State, \$432.60; contributed by the citizens, \$651.32; total expenditure, \$2,058.25.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, } TALLAHASSEE, Florida. }

The following questions may be answered in writing by persons distant from this office, seeking teacher's certificates:

ARITHMETIC.

1. Subtract 365 trillionths from 787, and divide the remainder by four-fifths of .02.

2. From two-thirds of a ton subtract 17 pounds, and find what part of a ton the remainder equals.

3. A and B dig a ditch 40 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 4 feet deep, in 5 days; B digging two-fifteenths of the ditch each day. In what time would A alone have dug the ditch?

4. If rectangular building lots, measuring 40 feet by 100 feet, are sold for \$400 each, what price per acre is obtained for the land?

5. At \$5 per cord, what will be the cost of a pile of wood 18 feet long, 6 feet 4 inches high, and 4 feet 8 inches wide?

6. What is the difference between the compound and the simple interest of \$100 for 2 years, 2 months, and 2 days, at 6 per cent., the compound interest being due semi-annually?

7. At what discount must stocks yielding an annual dividend of 8 per cent. on the par value, be bought, that the investment may yield 9 per cent. on the money invested?

8. I bought goods for \$100, paying cash for them May 1, 1870. On the first of February, 1872, I sold the goods for \$105. What per cent. was gained on the money paid for the goods, money being worth 6 per cent. per annum?

9. Which is the better investment, 8 per cent. stocks at 20 per cent. discount, or 12 per cent. stocks at 15 per cent. premium?

10. A man bought a house at a discount of 30 per cent. upon its appraised value, and sold it for 15 per cent. more than its appraised value. He received \$5,000 for the house. What did he pay for it?

GRAMMAR.

1. Correct the following sentences:

I expected to have gone yesterday. Each one of us have as much as we can do. I saw him five years since. Washington will be remembered as him who was the Father of his country.

2. Write the plural of spoonful, court-martial, radius, memorandum, corps, hose, turkey, motto, mosquito, criterion.

3. Parse the words in capitals in the following sentences:

The estate is WORTH ten thousand DOLLARS. The well is ten FEET DEEP. Now is your time. You will gain THEREBY. I found him ALONE. He returned HOME. I want a hero—an uncommon WANT. Last CAME Joy's ecstatic trial.

4. How are verbs divided according to their use?

5. How are verbs divided according to their form?

6. Write the principal parts of teach, arise, throw, lie, and dive.

7. Can the same verb be both transitive and intransitive?

8. How do shall and will differ in meaning?

9. What is meant by the object of a verb?

10. What is meant by the object of a preposition?

GEOGRAPHY.

1. Why is the Torrid Zone the warmest part of the earth?
2. Which is the longest, a degree of longitude near the Arctic Circle, or a degree of latitude, and why?
3. Name two European capitals having nearly the same latitude as New York City.
4. Where is the highest mountain range in Asia, and what is its name?
5. Describe the position of the principal plains and table-lands of North America.
6. What determines the direction of the Hudson River?
7. What portions of South America are nearly rainless, and why?
8. Why is Rhode Island so extensively engaged in manufacturing?
9. Name one of the United States that resembles Portugal in area.
10. Name the States or Territories that are separated by the Missouri River, also those through which it flows.

SPELLING.

1. Aqueduct. 2. Receive. 3. Circumference. 4. Believe.
5. Rheumatism. 6. Separate. 7. Facetious. 8. Symmetry.
9. Accommodate. 10. Vermilion.

HISTORY.

1. Who was king of England in 1776, and what was his character? Who was his Prime Minister?
2. What British Statesman opposed the American War?
3. For what is each of the following places distinguished in American history: St. Augustine, Annapolis, Charleston, New Orleans, Guilford Court-house, Monmouth?
4. By whom was Louisiana settled, and how did it become a part of the United States? Florida?
5. Name four Orators distinguished in American history, four Statesmen, four Generals, two Historians, two Poets.
6. How are United States Senators elected, and for what time? How are members of the House of Representatives elected, and what is the basis of representation?
7. By whom was the Mississippi discovered? Where? When?
8. Name one important battle in which Burgoyne was engaged; Cornwallis; Washington.
9. From what nations have we acquired Louisiana, Florida, and California?
10. What induced Columbus to attempt the discovery of a Western Continent?

The following is the State series of text-books :

READERS AND SPELLERS.

Union Series Primers and Readers—Union Primer, First Reader or Jeffers' Chart, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

ARITHMETIC.

Felter's First Lessons in Arithmetic, Felter's Primary Arithmetic, Felter's Intellectual Arithmetic, Felter's Intermediate Arithmetic, Felter's Practical Arithmetic.

GRAMMAR.

Kerl's First Lessons in Grammar, and Kerl's Common School Grammar.

RHETORIC.

Quackenbos' Rhetoric, and Scholars' Companion.

GEOGRAPHY.

Montieth's—First Lessons, Introduction to Manual, New Manual, Physical and Intermediate, Political and Intermediate, and McNally's System of Geography.

WRITING.

Spencerian System.

BOOK-KEEPING.

Bryant & Stratton's.

HISTORY.

Wilson's Series—Wilson's Primary American, Wilson's History United States, Wilson's American History, Wilson's Outlines of Universal History (University edition).

Parley's Universal History.

BOTANY.

Gray's—How Plants Grow, and School and Field Book.

CHEMISTRY.

Well's Chemistry.

PHYSIOLOGY.

Huxley and Youmans' Physiology.

FRENCH.

Tasquell's French Course.

ALGEBRA.

Loomis'—Algebra, and Geometry.

LATIN.

Andrews and Stodart's Grammar and Reader.

GREEK.

Alpheus H. Crosby's Grammar and Reader.

GERMAN.

Ahn's Rudiments of the German Language.

Post-office addresses of School Superintendents, January 1,
1874:

JONATHAN C. GIBBS, State Superintendent,
Tallahassee, Fla.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Alachua.....	Hon. W. K. Cessna.....	Gainesville.
Baker.....	J. W. Howell.....	Sanderson.
Bradford.....	Abraham Lawrence.....	Starke.
Brevard.....	Alexander Bell.....	Fort Pierce.
Calhoun.....	Alexander Hawkins.....	Abe's Springs.
Clay.....	O. Buddington.....	Middleburg.
Columbia.....	A. H. Hutchinson.....	Lake City.
Duval.....	W. H. Christy.....	Jacksonville.
Dade.....	E. T. Sturtevant.....	Biscayne.
Escambia.....	George Lindsey.....	Pensacola.
Franklin.....	F. B. Wakefield.....	Apalachicola.
Gadsden.....	Samuel Hamlin.....	Quincy.
Hamilton.....	Stephen S. Taylor.....	Jasper.
Hernando.....	T. S. Coogler.....	Brooksville.
Hillsborough.....	W. F. White.....	Tampa.
Holmes.....	W. W. Brown.....	Cerro Gordo.
Jackson.....	C. E. Harvey.....	Marianna.
Jefferson.....	Robert Meacham.....	Monticello.
La Fayette.....	Hon. W. D. Sears.....	New Troy.
Leon.....	John P. Apthorp.....	Tallahassee.
Levy.....	Thomas B. Faltoute.....	Bronson.
Liberty.....	John W. Hosford.....	Coe's Mills.
Madison.....	Dennis Eagan.....	Madison.
Manatee.....	J. F. Bartholf.....	Pine Level.
Marion.....	William J. Tucker.....	Ocala.
Monroe.....	J. W. Locke.....	Key West.
Nassau.....	J. C. Emerson.....	Fernandina.
Orange.....	N. W. Prince.....	Apopka.
Polk.....	W. B. Varn.....	Bartow.
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Santa Rosa.....	J. A. Chaffin.....	Milton.
St. Johns.....	O. Bronson.....	St. Augustine.
Sumter.....	A. P. Roberts.....	Leesburg.
Suwannee.....	M. M. Blackburn.....	Live Oak.
Taylor.....	Joseph S. Howell.....	Shady Grove.
Volusia.....	Champ Spencer.....	Port Orange.
Wakulla.....	Gustave Jaenicke.....	St. Marks.
Walton.....	J. L. McKinnon.....	Ucheeanna.
Washington.....	Thomas Hannah.....	Vernon.

"EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH."

A Paper Read before the National Educational Association, at its 13th Annual Meeting, at Elmira, on the 7th day of August, 1873,

BY HON. JONATHAN C. GIBBS,

Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Florida.

The future life of the American Nation is a subject of profound interest to considerate men. The present life of this nation is so interwoven with the future destiny of the entire human race, that there is no form of government or society on the broad face of this earth that may not and will not be effected for good or evil in the most positive sense, by the history and acts of the people of these United States. The distinct mission of the people of these United States is to give to the world a system of government in which is shown the largest positive personal liberty for individual development compatible with national safety. The mission of this nation is as distinct and emphatic as that of Israel of old. With the birth of every nation destined to live, to endure, is a grand cardinal idea, a living thought, breathing in the full sunlight of the fervent hearts and vivid imaginations of a chosen few, who are lifted by a divine afflatus beyond the ken of mortal vision, and are prepared to do and die in the advocacy of the idea, the grand thought, that glimmers and glows in their consciousness like a precious jewel in the burning sun. This idea—this living thought—marks every stage of the nation's life, from its incipient steps down to its last stage of final decadence. The Jewish Government was a Theocracy; its mission, to teach the world that God, Jehovah, is Sovereign King, Lord, Emperor of all the earth; and from the day that Israel crossed the Red Sea down to the present moment, prosperity or adversity has been their lot, as they adhered to or departed from the grand idea that underlies their mission, and is the very corner-stone of their existence to-day. So with these United States; our mission is to make room for liberty, make room for the development of the individual, and nothing but contention and bloodshed can and will mark every national departure from the national oath thrown to the world with our national symbol, in 1776, in which we declared certain truths self-evident in relation to individual development. The entire world understands that here, in these United States, the largest personal liberty may be enjoyed; we have for a hundred years been inviting to come to us, from all

parts of the earth, those who are sighing and longing to develop every faculty that God and Nature has implanted in their being.

Are not the duties of American citizenship high and responsible? The nation's sacred honor is pledged to make room for the struggling millions of the earth, and with an abiding faith in the strength of republican ideas and institutions, we say, Come to us and we will do you good, for the Lord hath given to us a goodly inheritance. We are here to-day as builders, reconstructors, to examine carefully one of the great foundation stones of the temple of our liberties—National Intelligence! We are here to learn what the opportunity, what the means by which the entire nation may learn and correctly apply the principles and doctrines of 1776. There is undoubtedly a vast pressure upon this corner-stone, National Intelligence, but we report that it is in fair condition and very nearly level! It will bear an almost unlimited pressure for the next fifty years. Some time ago it slipped from its resting-place upon Virtue, and caused much unpleasantness; but the people raised it with the strong lever of Justice, and then blocked it with the Reconstruction Acts of Congress, and it is able to-day to bear the strain of 25,000 more school-houses in the late rebellious States of our Union, because there are 3,000,000 in a strictly illiterate condition, and the public mind is largely conscious, by the experience of the last ten years, what may result from ignorance and arrogance in a country professedly free. We are here to-day to ascertain what has already been done, and what is now in progress, and what we may reasonably expect in relation to the future. Justice and equity demand that the magnitude of the educational wants of the Southern States, and its intrinsic importance to the whole country, be laid before the public mind from time to time, that men everywhere may understand that the education of the mass is indissoluble from a healthy condition of free government.

The exact measure of an American citizen is his usefulness to his country, his God, the world. Other nations may have a different standard of measure, but here on Columbia's soil, the birthplace of Washington, Hancock, Jefferson, and Lincoln, usefulness will be the recognized standard measure of a man.

We are to-day from the distant State of Florida to say what we are doing to train up men and women, irrespective of race or color, who shall add lustre to the glory of our common country by those sterling virtues of manhood and womanhood that constitute true greatness, whether they be found in the palace or hovel.

It might have been inferred in 1867 and 1868, without violent supposition, that Florida would have been one of the Southern

States in which reconstruction would be most difficult, because more than three-fourths of her existence as a State and Territory had been blasted by a long and continuous Indian war, and before she could recover from the barbarizing effects of savage warfare she was cast into the seething, boiling caldron of secession, only to be withdrawn by the strong hand of Federal power, suffering and distracted in all her interests. But the sound sense of a majority of the people of Florida, colored and white, saved this State from many of those terrible political blunders that constitute crime in the highest sense when the life and precious interests of a State or nation are swinging over a vortex of ruin and misery. Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, and others furnish much food for thought in this direction for reflecting minds.

There was, prior to the war, in this State and other States of the South a system of education that was called public, but it failed in all the essential features of a public school system. Slavery had much to do with its failure. It has been said to me by parties who had opportunities of knowing the exact truth, that these schools were regarded as pauper institutions, and the wealthy would not send their children, and withheld largely moral and material support. As society was constituted in the days of slavery, the rich white man had very little interest in the poor white man, and fierce animosities existed by reason of the sharply drawn lines of class distinctions that are not explained by saying lines of demarkation always exist between wealth and poverty. Slavery divided the whites into two classes, and kept them apart, inculcating the idea that they had no interest in common. I have heard them give expression to their estimate of the class to which the supposed offender might belong, after an interchange of incivilities, in language somewhat deficient in beauty, but not in force. During moments of unpleasant excitement, the words "ristocrat" and "cracker" take on additions hardly fit for polite ears, and then flash out and fly around like blue lightning. The brutal influence of slavery was in many respects barely secondary in its effects upon the poor whites to that of the slave. In many parts of the South it is regarded as an aggravated insult to say "You are a poor white man." The freedmen give birth to the same thought in two sententious words: "Poor buckra!" expressive to their minds of dirty personal habits, shiftlessness, laziness, want of energy, force, stolid ignorance, dishonesty, and worse than all to the Southern mind, moral and physical cowardice. It expressed even more than this—jibe, jeer, pity, contempt; and even the slave, standing in the midst of his shackles, would say, Here am I—poor, wretched, ignorant, disheartened, outraged in all that is dear to man by legalized enactments,

with no hope between this and the grave—superior to you, a white man, born free, but without hope, without aspiration. Have not the poorer class of the whites strong reason to be staunch Union men, and stand by the old flag unflinchingly? The horrors and tyrannies of Ku-Klux organizations will be impossible when the poorer class have access to the common schools.

The Ninth United States Census shows the following condition of literacy and illiteracy in eleven States, in round numbers:

	<i>School Attendance.</i>	<i>Cannot Read.</i>
Virginia.....	153,000	439,000
Georgia.....	77,000	418,000
Alabama.....	77,000	369,000
Arkansas.....	62,000	111,000
Louisiana.....	51,000	257,000
Maryland.....	105,000	114,000
Mississippi.....	39,000	291,000
North Carolina.....	65,000	359,000
South Carolina.....	41,000	265,000
Texas.....	65,000	189,000
Florida.....	18,000	71,000
Total.....	753,000	2,863,000

This is truly suggestive, and the inquiry is pertinent: Have we not a missionary field at our very doors?

The resources of Florida for educational purposes may be stated as follows: 85,714 acres of land granted by Congress for the support of two seminaries, one east and the other west of the Suwannee river. These lands were selected and appraised by agents of the State, and approved by the Department at Washington.

Also the 16th sections granted by Congress to the State for general educational purposes, amounting to 704,692 acres. Of the seminary lands 46,000 acres have been sold, leaving unsold 39,000 acres. Of the school lands 110,000 acres have been sold, leaving a balance of near 594,000 acres.

Section 4, Article 8, of the Constitution of 1868, declares that the interest of the common school fund shall be applied exclusively to support a uniform system of common schools.

The proceeds of all lands that have been, or may hereafter be, granted by the United States for educational purposes.

Appropriations by the State.

The proceeds of all lands or other property that may accrue to the State by escheat or forfeiture.

Donations by individuals for educational purposes.

The proceeds of all property granted to the State, when the purpose of such grant is not specified.

All fines collected under the penal laws of the State.

Such portion of the per capita tax as may be prescribed by law for educational purposes.

Twenty-five per cent. of the sale of public lands which are now, or may be hereafter, owned by the State.

A special tax of not less than one mill on the dollar of the assessed value of all the property in the State, assessed \$32,000,000.

In addition, each county is required to raise by annual tax for the support of common schools a sum not less than one-half the amount apportioned to each county from the income of the common school fund.

The cash expenditure for the year ending September 30, 1872, is as follows:

The interest on the common school fund apportioned among the several counties amounted to \$15,784.53. The warrants sold for about sixty cents, which realized \$9,470.80. From the defective character of the returns it is not possible to state with precision what amount the several counties received from the one mill constitutional tax. The amount may be

Estimated at about.....	\$75,000.00
Peabody Fund.....	7,350.00
Private contributions.....	10,000.00
Interest on school fund.....	9,470.80
Total.....	\$101,820.80

This, divided among all the children in the State, is at the rate of \$1.64 per child.

The school fund proper is..... \$231,785.56

The Seminary fund..... 82,817.37

Fifty thousand dollars appropriated by the Legislature for schools in 1868 is not added in this account, as some informality existed at the time of its passage, and it remains unpaid. The Legislature at its next session will be requested to make a final disposition of the above \$50,000.

The population of Florida in round numbers is 200,000. There are 62,870 children between the limits of school age, 4 and 21. Of this number 18,000 are in school, on an average, four months in the year. There are 400 schools, with an average of 45 pupils. The census of 1860—*ante bellum*—shows that Florida had in her schools 4,486 pupils, at an expense of \$75,412; and this stands in strong contrast with the fact that to-day Florida has 18,000 pupils in school, at an expense of \$101,820.80; fully four times as many pupils, at an increase of only 33 per cent. over expense of 1860. There are 71,000 persons in Florida who can neither read nor write, and out of this number about 19,000 are white and 52,000 colored.

There are many reasons for believing that this dense cloud of ignorance is rapidly dissolving. The desire on the part of the colored people to obtain a knowledge of letters is truly astonishing; and this desire is sustained by persistent effort. If I were to say half that can be truthfully said on this point, I would subject myself to the charge of extravagance and exaggeration by many persons. I know of some marked instances of individual progress, such as would put to blush some that can boast of an educated ancestry for three generations past.

But the point that is particularly worthy of note is the widespread general desire on the part of the colored people to learn. The only solution I can give of this state or condition of mind among the colored people is, that God has suddenly waked up this entire people to a consciousness of duties and responsibilities that neither themselves nor others had the least thought or expectation of a few years since. The illiteracy of the South appeals strongly to every Christian heart and mind throughout our broad land.

A good Bishop, during the reign of Mary, was imprisoned in the Tower of London for his earnest advocacy of religious freedom, and day after day his parishioners came and bowed upon the pavement outside the prison wall, far below the window of his prison cell, so that neither party could see each other from their respective positions, waiting the benediction of this good man. At stated hours during the day, high up the rugged wall, from the iron-bound window of his prison cell, could be seen by the weeping crowd below, only the two extended arms of the good Bishop between the iron bars of his prison window, pronouncing benedictions upon his troubled flock in the name of the Most Holy Trinity. How strong the appeal of those two outstretched arms from that prison window in favor of religious toleration. How often have men in all parts of the civilized world, for more than a hundred years, asserted the justice of that appeal in favor of religious toleration by those two outstretched arms from that prison window. But how much more powerful the appeal that is made to you to-day by the outstretched hands and sighing hearts of 70,000 of your own countrymen in the State of Florida, to be delivered from the prison-house of ignorance, poverty, suffering, crime! I stand here to-day appealing to you in behalf of those 70,000 persons, white and colored, who, through no fault of their own, are firmly bound by the shackles of ignorance and poverty to-day; by reason of your fault and my fault, when we said, What has the North to do with slavery? and lent the use of our ships and money to carry on the African slave trade, and by national compact agreed to rob Africa for twenty years, and called it a lawful business. Our sin has found us out! God smote us, and to-day, in memory of the loved dead on both sides of the contest, with streaming eyes and quivering hearts bless the hand that smote us, and teach our children to the latest generation, the grand and great lesson of our war, viz.: The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man!

The colored Methodists and Baptists have taken preliminary steps to establish two institutes of learning for the training of religious teachers. And as we remember the humble beginnings of some of our most distinguished institutions of learning here in the North, we thank God and take courage, knowing that the good work will be carried on after we have quit this

mortal life by men with more able minds and larger means, but no more earnest and sincere than we are to-day. "What!" says the carping critic, "are you laying the foundation for colleges and universities for a people not yet ten years out of abject chattel slavery and in the midst of poverty? Give them the common school in perfection, and when you have done that it will be time enough to think about universities and colleges." One moment, Solomon, only one moment, if you please. How are we to have good common schools in Florida without these higher institutions of learning? We are sending daily to the North, West, and East for competent teachers, and the supply is not equal to the demand. Our great want is competent teachers, and we are compelled in many instances to use material that under more favorable circumstances would be rejected at sight.

On the 20th day of March, 1872, in accordance with the law establishing the Florida Agricultural College, approved February 17, 1872, Hon. Charles Beecher was chosen President and Hon. W. D. Bloxham Vice-President, and a Board of Trustees organized. Within the past three months the agricultural scrip given to Florida by Congress has been sold for ninety cents, and we have in hand \$81,000 to commence this new enterprise. This State Agricultural College will possess advantages in relation to all tropical and semi-tropical productions possessed by no other college in the United States. The flora and fauna of the tropics will be its great specialty. Our arboretum will of necessity challenge the attention of the Bureau at Washington, and be made by judicious foresight and action a blessing to the entire country. South Florida is below the frost line, and offers in this direction large inducements for the location of this college. Those rare and precious tropical and semi-tropical plants that stimulate the wonder and admiration of the botanist in higher latitudes so intensely, here riot in rich profusion in the open air. In relation to health, and particularly pulmonary complaints, Florida is unsurpassed by any State in the Union. It is a fact worthy of note that more than 50,000 persons visited Florida last winter seeking the benefit of the genial, balmy influence of the climate, and to escape the rigors of the cold in the North. The census of 1860 shows that the deaths from consumption in the different States of the Union were as follows during the year ending May 31, 1860: In Massachusetts, 1 in 254; in Maine, 1 in 289; in Vermont, 1 in 404; in New York, 1 in 473; in Pennsylvania, 1 in 580; in Ohio, 1 in 679; in California, 1 in 727; in Virginia, 1 in 757; in Indiana, 1 in 792; in Illinois, 1 in 878; in Florida, 1 in 1,447. Not one native Floridian in 3,000 dies with consumption. Nine-tenths of the deaths that occur in Florida from consumption are persons who have delayed their coming into the State until they were in the last stage of the disease.

There are some 15,000,000 acres of land belonging to the United States, and 10,000,000 acres State land, all subject to homestead entry from 75 cents per acre to \$2.50, in quantities not exceeding 160 acres. Twenty dollars will, under the homestead law, secure 160 acres of land, and much of it is among the most fertile lands in the South. Nearly seven thousand homestead entries have been made since the close of the late war. Florida, from its geographical position and a coast line of 1,000 miles, and an extent of territory 12,268 square miles greater than the State of New York—whose area is 47,000 square miles, while Florida has 59,268 square miles—must become wealthy and powerful among the States of the Union, because it is the gate-way of commerce between North and South America, and the West Indies.

The present financial condition of Florida is not what the friends of order and progress desire, but it is by no means what it has been represented, either through carelessness or political animosities. It is a fact worthy of note that the joint committee appointed by Congress, under the resolution passed in March or April, 1871, to inquire into the condition of the late rebellious States, reports the State as having increased its debt \$13,000,000 in four years of carpet-bag rule, and its entire debt at \$15,000,000, and the credit of the State ruined beyond redemption. The fact is established beyond the shade of a doubt, by the last United States Census, that the debt of Florida is a little over \$2,000,000—\$9,000,000 less than the Congressional Committee report of increase in four years. The census shows that Florida ranks as the thirty-fifth State in respect to total indebtedness, and that Delaware and West Virginia alone have less than Florida. Florida ranks the thirty-third in regard to population, Nebraska and Delaware ranking thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth respectively. The census shows that the tax on the assessed value of the property of Florida is \$65 on every \$1,000. The total assessed valuation of the entire property of the State is \$32,480,843; total indebtedness, \$2,185,838; population, 187,748. Our liabilities, according to the population, is \$2.60 per head.

If Cicero were living in our day he would probably burst forth with his indignant but sorrowful protest: "Oh, the times! Oh, the customs!" while we in good round Saxon exclaim, "Lord, how this world is given to lying!"

Concerning the moral honesty and intelligence of those States which have attempted to blot out the system of free schools within the past three years, by solemn acts of their Legislatures, I will say nothing; for such acts stamp the intelligence of those several Legislatures to be about equal to a Florida gopher or mud-turtle, which lives in darkness the greater portion of its existence. There are some acts that indicate wickedness and stupidity to such an extent that, for the credit of our common

humanity, we remain silent. Happily, no such acts disgrace the statutes and laws of Florida.

During the last four years we have had some local disturbances, but as a general statement we have had an impartial administration of law, and the civil power of the Government in this State is more cheerfully obeyed than in any other South. It is my deliberate opinion that the people of Florida have but little to complain of, in view of attending circumstances since the war, and whenever a reasonable complaint has been made by any class to the Federal or State Governments, there has been a large disposition to give justice and show fair play between man and man. During the last Presidential contest Republicans and Conservatives, white and colored, travelled the entire State, each showing up the misdeeds of the other in terse language, and oftentimes more forcible than beautiful, and yet not a single conflict ensued.

Notwithstanding the prolonged cry that has from time to time been made about carpet-bag governments in the South, the Governor, two-thirds of the Supreme Court, and four-fifths of the other judicial and executive officers were native citizens of Florida, or citizens before the war, and the Legislature has been very nearly divided between Republicans and Democrats, with a large preponderance of native citizens.

Florida has twenty-three newspapers, and issues annually about 700,000 copies; 420 church organizations, and 390 church buildings—many of them very rude. The different counties supported 147 paupers, at a cost of \$10,000. The same year (1870) the convictions for crime were 335. The general conduct of the colored people of the South since the war has been admirable. The entire outdoor manual labor of the South is done by the freedmen. I do not think that more than ten bales of cotton out of every 5,000 bales is the result of white manual labor. Texas has a larger white working element in the field than any other Southern State, chiefly Germans.

Perhaps the best measure by which the thrift, prudence, pluck, forecast, endurance, and self-control of the newly enfranchised citizen is in the returns of the National Freedman's Savings Bank. The act of Congress incorporating this bank was approved March 3, 1865, and this approval is said to have been among the last official acts of that hero, martyr, saint, Abraham Lincoln. The total amount of deposits received from the organization of the company, to October 1, 1871, six years from the opening of the first branch bank, is \$25,977,435.48; total drafts during the same period are \$22,850,926.47, and having on deposit last March, \$4,203,784.74. For the purpose of an approximate idea of what was the proportion of white and colored depositors, I addressed a note to one of the cashiers of a branch bank that received on deposit, for the month of January, 1873,

\$12,154.54. He replied, we have 1,000 depositors, and about one-fifth are white. The largest amount deposited in any one year is that ending May, 1873, \$90,000. The largest amount on deposit at any one time was \$45,000. This bank is in Leon county, and the population is 15,000. I regard the National Freedman's Savings Bank as a great educational institution, doing its work silently but surely, exerting a strong conservative influence, wherever these branch banks are successful. The history of the Freedman's Bank is a pledge given by the newly enfranchised citizen to the friends of liberty, law, and progress the wide world over. Here is a crushing answer to all the malignant abuse of shallow pates for the last fifty years. Nine years ago these people did not own so much as the hair on their heads; indeed, a great many of them were in the condition of "Old Uncle Ned." To-day, by their actual toil, they have saved and placed on deposit this amount of money. If \$4,000,000 have been saved by the freedmen in seven years, what may we not reasonably expect in twenty years—aye, fifty years.

If there is a particular class of persons in this country that deserve the everlasting gratitude of the American people, and a vote of thanks by both Houses of Congress, for valuable services to the nation, it is the "school marms," the teachers of both races in the distant South. Many of them, without fee or hope of reward, have given their most noble efforts to bring peace and good will to the South by means of the common school. Many have endured bitter persecutions of scorn, bitterness, slander, ostracism, scourgings, and in some instances life itself has been sacrificed in this work of love—men and women who believed in their inmost souls the words of the Divine Redeemer: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto these the least of my disciples, ye did it unto me." "When I was sick ye came unto me; when I was hungered ye gave me bread; when I was in prison ye visited me." And here to-day, in the name of the people of Florida, of every class and condition, I thank every teacher that has crossed Mason and Dixon's line, with the high and holy purpose of bringing peace and good will to the South. May the blessing of the poor, and of Him that was ready to perish, rest upon them and theirs to the latest generation.

The miserable consequences growing out of slavery still rest upon the country in many particulars, and at least two generations must pass before they are obliterated; still there is much to encourage faithful, persistent effort to enlighten the masses in the South and give permanence to republican ideas and institutions by means of the school-house. The bitterness growing out of the late war is past, and all parties want peace and quiet, that business may resume its natural channels. The social condition of the colored people is rapidly improving; the blessings of homes and home comforts are increasing. It is a

fact that intemperance does not exist to any considerable extent among the colored people. Many of those things that shock good taste and good morals, which a few years ago were so prevalent, have passed away, but they still preach and pray, sing and shout all night long in defiance of health, sound sense, or other considerations supposed to influence a reasonable being.

The four millions of newly enfranchised citizens demand in the name of justice the nation's solemn contract, that our national schools of learning be free to all classes of our citizens without distinction of race or color.

The conduct of the colored troops during the late war at Wagner, Honey Hill, Nashville, Port Hudson, New Market Heights, Dutch Gap, and many other hard-fought battle-fields, does not by any means justify the action of many of the students at West Point and Annapolis toward the colored young men who have been sent to those institutions upon the plighted faith of the nation. Have these young gentlemen forgotten that only a few years since the only persons throughout the entire South who ventured to bring food and drink to famished Union soldiers, many in the last agonies of death, were the colored people, and that a black face was the only sure sign of a staunch friend? Does the conduct of the young men at Annapolis give assurance that they ever will be as useful, brave, and true to the dear old flag as Robert Small, commander of the Planter? It is my deliberate opinion that the capacity for future usefulness to the army or navy of the young men who directly or indirectly aided in this persecution, is about equal to the capture of an Indian's breech clout, or a squaw's mush-stick in lieu of her petticoats, and the active use of their legs whenever danger may threaten their precious persons. I am for putting down rebels with an iron hand, whether they are in the North or South. It is not to be supposed for an instant that these young goslings, with a stripe down their leg and a spur on their heel, can defeat the nation's purpose, but I call the attention of the managers of those institutions to the fact that they add neither grace or glory to their several departments.

We leave this beautiful city, Elmira, with its wealth, culture, and charming hospitalities, in a few hours, with this impression stamped indelibly upon our mind, viz.: That no amount of effort expended, no amount of money applied, no amount of talent and genius called into exercise, can so surely bring peace, good will, and prosperity to the South, as that amount of effort, money, talent expended for the education of the whole people of the South, without reference to race, color or previous condition. And in the spirit of the thought of the sainted Lincoln, may we all go forward in the path of duty, with malice towards none and charity for all, doing our whole duty as God may give us light and opportunity.

